OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JANUARY 1978
Vol. 21, No. 1
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Congregations throughout the country had some encouraging results from the tract distribution in September. One elder stated that: "Now our congregation has no shortage of return visits to go on." Others had similar expressions. There were over 220,000 more books placed this September in connection with the tract work than were placed in September 1976.

There have been some interesting developments in recent months. For example, at the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania on October 1, 1977, it was announced that plans are being made to computerize the printing operations in Brooklyn and at the Watchtower Farms. At present, we do have a small business computer in operation. With the use of this computer we hope to save time and be of better service to our brothers in the months ahead. However, during the transitional period delays may occur.

During the month of December the first groups of pioneers were scheduled to attend the Pioneer Service Schools. These schools are situated in 13 different areas in the United States. About 350 were scheduled to attend the first of these two-week classes. Other classes will be scheduled for March and April as well as this fall.

In addition to the Pioneer Service School, the first sessions of the Five-Week Gilead Course for the benefit of the Branch Committee members was scheduled to begin at the close of December at Brooklyn Bethel. These courses will provide training in handling Scriptural and committee matters, operations in the Society's Bethel homes and printing facilities, and cover other subjects that will be useful to the brothers in their assignments.

With all of these fine provisions

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

"Love One Another Intensely from the Heart"

1 How do you feel about your brothers and sisters in the congregation? Having accepted the truth yourself and molded your life to conform to God's will, do you count each member of the congregation—each brother and sister—as bought with the same precious blood and equally loved by God? If so, your love will be unhypocritical—intensely from the heart—and will manifest itself in deeds. Are you showing this love? —1 Pet. 1:22.

HOW CAN WE SHOW THIS LOVE?

2 We want to help everyone we can spiritually. But in our busy lives do we forget the other needs that people have? For example, some may be physically unable to mow their lawn or shovel snow, take out the garbage, or clean the house, and may also be financially unable to hire someone to do it. Or the problem may be repairs on the home. Elderly or sick persons may appreciate your doing some painting or repairs around the home. In some cases you may run an errand to shop for groceries or other items or to take care of some necessary business for them. In addition to our making public declaration to God's name, Hebrews 13:16 encourages us: "Do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

3 All of us have a special responsibility toward widows in their tribulation, as Jesus' half brother pointed out at James 1:27. Lonesomeness is a distressing thing for many bereaved persons or older ones. Sisters, both old and young, could take turns visiting widows or sisters who are ill. They could read together, sew, or talk, or help the handicapped one to telephone others or to write letters in witnessing. Occasionally a sister or two could cook a meal and take it to the home of the "shut-in." At the same time an atmosphere of love and good fellowship will be enjoyed by all involved. Brothers, including younger ones, could help sick or shut-in brothers.

4 What a bond of love and unity can be built up in a congregation if all "love one another intensely from the heart"! Sometimes it will cost time and money. But our willingness to share with our brothers is evidence of the genuineness of our love. (John 13:34, 35) Moreover, God can equalize matters and increase our blessings in many ways, and he will do so.—2 Cor. 8:14; 9:13, 14.

"All Day Long I Will Bless You"

1 Those inside and outside the Christian congregation are in need of spiritual encouragement. Family members need it. Older brothers and sisters as well as those new in the truth need it. Those who are depressed or facing other problems need it. (1 Thess. 5:14, 15) You can prove to be a blessing to many of them. How? By being a person who makes opportunities to talk to them about spiritual matters.

2 At Psalm 145:2 King David said to Jehovah: "All day long I will bless you." How refreshing this must have been to other spiritually-minded persons who associated with David. David found that he had much to talk about because as verse three of this Psalm states: "Jehovah is great and very much to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." Are not all who grow in appreciation of Jehovah's greatness moved to feel the same way?

3 How does a person acquire such heart appreciation for Jehovah? Psalm 145:5 answers when David states: "The glorious splendor of your dignity and the matters of your wonderful works *I will make my concern.*" Yes, to be moved to praise Jehovah "all day long," a person must take time to meditate on Jehovah's works of creation. Making time to study regularly Jehovah's "wonderful works" of the past, described in the Bible, will also enhance our heart appreciation. Constantly including expressions of praise in our prayers to Jehovah will further warm our hearts toward him. However, care must be exercised that time-consuming things or those that could endanger our spirituality, such as the excessive watching of television, are not allowed to interfere. It is good to remember that what we talk about is a good reflection of what is in our heart. A good spiritual input obviously

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 1

25 min: Song 16. Announcements. Benefits from a year's subscription to *The Watchtower*. Speaker to assign specific points in advance. Have brothers prepare one- to two-minute comment with view to showing householders value of *The Watchtower*—what it brought to its readers during the year 1977. Use some of suggested points below, others if desired.

(1) How Bible is true and transmitted faithfully to us: *w77* 2/1 p. 92 ¶ 2, 3; *w77* 3/15 p. 189 ¶ 6; *w77* 4/1 p. 216 ¶ 5, 6.

(2) Verse-by-verse discussion of Bible book. (Make comments about value of having verse-by-verse, contextual study of book. Gives understanding of what writer really meant; can follow argument and get main idea of book. Then call for comments as examples.) Ecclesiastes: *w77* 3/15 p. 186 ¶ 2; *w77* 6/15 p. 378 ¶ 1-3.

(3) Everyday life, family problems, and so forth. Value of truth, honesty, morality: *w77* 10/15 pp. 621-623; dealing with depression: *w77* 5/1 p. 259; marriage: *w77* 3/15 p. 172; alcoholism: *w77* 8/15 p. 483.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Being Resourceful." Handle by discussion with audience, assisting the brothers to make local application of the material. Stimulate discussion on the following points:

(1) To be effective in 'letting our light shine,' what must we learn to be? (par. 1) What does it mean to be resourceful?

(2) Experiences had due to taking advantage of situations coming up during daily routines. (Select meaningful experiences in advance in accord with situations like those mentioned in paragraph two.)

(3) Have some from their seats tell how they have started conversations with neighbors, co-workers or schoolmates.

(4) Remind brothers that they can offer a half-year subscription to *The Watchtower* along with the *Truth* book or other pocket-size book, for $1.25.

15 min: Discuss Branch Letter. Comment on local congregation's activity in recent months, warmly commending and encouraging the brothers. Song 27 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 8

20 min: Song 26. Announcements, including accounts report. Women Who Feared Jehovah. (Speaker give brief introduction, then ask questions, discuss scriptures cited. Use what material you can in time allotted.)

While men generally have duties that bring them more prominently before the congregation, women can, in eyes of God and Christ, be just as beloved if they serve well in ways that God has provided. Many different services open to them. Consider Anna. (Luke 2:36-38) How was she in "constant" attendance at temple? (She evidently did not stay there day and night, but was never absent at appropriate or usual times for public worship, and went privately at other times.) What was she doing? (Comment that Israelites and proselytes from all parts of earth, as well as being of all ages and walks of life, came to worship. Then read Luke 2:38 for answer.)

Then, there was Lydia of Philippi. (Acts 16:13-15) What traits were outstanding in Lydia? Entertain audience comment on Lydia's personality and zeal for true worship, her humility, desire and readiness to learn; what she did to promote the spread of the good news by her hospitality to those proclaiming it.

Dorcas of Joppa was commended as faithful. (Acts 9:36-39) What valuable contribution did she make to Christian congregation?

Outstanding also was Priscilla, wife of Aquila. (Use material in *Aid*, p. 1343, particularly reading scriptures cited and entertaining audience comment on her valuable activities and zeal.) Many sisters today engage in helping others. Then, let audience comment on things that sisters, young and old, can do to be loved by God and congregation as those women were.

20 min: Review the articles "New Literature Rates" and "Special Combination Book Offer." Questions and answers.

20 min: Demonstrations and interviews on practical ways parents can get to know their children better: (1) Father invites son to assist him in repairing toaster. As they work, father *tactfully* draws out son on his views toward field service and meetings. Discussion is casual with friendly atmosphere. Son not put on spot with questions that are too pointed. Closer bond results. (2) Mother asks daughter if she would like to accompany her in field service. Cheerful conversation as they walk from door to door. Daughter is asked how things are going at school. Pauses at first, hesitant, but then slowly reveals she was offered drugs by a boy she likes. Didn't know what to do, tempted to accept. Mother maintains calm composure. Cheerfully suggests that later they can talk about it further. Daughter pleased. (3) As time permits, interview several teen-agers about how they feel about school, congregation, and other matters pertinent to area. Song 27 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 15

18 min: Song 30. Announcements. Question-and-answer coverage of article "All Day Long I Will Bless You." Have brothers open Bibles to Psalm 145. Read verses covered by paragraph before asking question on paragraph. Get local application of points.

22 min: "Love One Another Intensely from the Heart." Talk and discussion. What sisters and younger ones can do. If any have been helped as article mentions, call on them to recount how they were helped and to express appreciation they have. (Not necessary to mention names.)

20 min: Field experiences in local territory. Have at least two publishers prepared in advance. Draw out audience on joys experienced by those who engage in a variety of features of service. Also discuss field situations that publishers encounter such as the following: Witnessing in high crime areas; making time count in covering rural areas; how to contact householders rarely at home; calling on people in areas where permission needed, such as trailer courts, military bases, nursing homes, and so forth. What to do if police ask you to leave. Song 45 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 22

18 min: Song 82. Announcements. "What Did the Wise Man Mean?" (*w77* 8/1 pp. 469, 470.) Talk and discussion, using scriptures. Give examples of how one may be 'overly righteous.' Why such course unwise: Making big issues over matters of strictly human procedure that are not set forth in Scriptures. More concern over rules than doing what is merciful and loving. (Rom. 14:1-4, 10) Practicing self-denial to harm of one's health. Should not be overly critical of others, meddling in their problems.—1 John 1:8.

25 min: Talk and discussion on article: "Make Wise Use of Your Elders." Highlight following scriptures: 1 Cor. 3:21-23; Eph. 4:8, 11; Jas. 5:13-16. Ask audience: Why should even the meekest congregation member not hesitate to approach an elder for help? How should elders feel toward the flock? (Belongs to Jehovah, in need of tender care, and a joy to work in their interests.) How can we best take advantage of their experience? (In field service, with personal problems and so forth. Include other appropriate examples.)

17 min: Talk on article in October 1, 1977, *Watchtower:* "Do Not Become 'Enraged Against Jehovah.'" Involve audience. Apply the following scriptures and points in your discussion: What kind of person becomes enraged against Jehovah? (Prov. 19:3) Why God cannot be blamed for our problems. (Eccl. 9:11) If one misses meetings due to being offended by another, what is he really saying? To whom is disloyalty being shown when congregation is rejected? (Ps. 119:165) Necessary to safeguard heart and keep balance. (Prov. 4:23; 1 Pet. 1:13) Song 15 and prayer.

Announcements

- The secretary will see to it that Memorial invitations are ordered now so that your congregation will receive them well in advance of the Memorial celebration Thursday, March 23, 1978. Invitations may be ordered in lots of 250, 500 and 1,000, using the special order blank provided for ordering Memorial invitations. Please do not remit with your order. The Memorial invitations will be charged to your congregation's literature account. Payment for invitations should be included with the amount of money remitted for literature. Please do not list payment separately on Remittance form. Make sure that your congregation number is shown on the order form.
- Literature offer for January: *Watchtower* subscription (with any 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers) for $2.00; or subscriptions for both *Watchtower* and *Awake!* (with two 384- or 416-page books free to new subscribers) for $4.00. A half-year subscription with a pocket-size book may be offered for $1.25. If the subscription is not accepted, a pocket-size book along with two magazines may be offered for 45c. February and March: Special offer of three books for 60c.
- From January through April, the 384- and 416-page books will be available to publishers for use in field service for 15c each. Congregations may request 30c credit for each of these books. (Pioneers, at regular rate.) With new one-year subscriptions obtained during January and April, a 384- or 416-page book will be given free; publishers are requested to remit $1.85. Credit for books taken by pioneers will be requested in the regular manner. For 384- or 416-page books taken by publishers, request credit by putting on Remittance and Credit Request form a line under "Other items" saying, "384- and 416-page books to publishers during campaign," and then state the total number for the month.
- At circuit assemblies having the new

(*Continued on page 3, col. 3*)

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Special Combination Book Offer

According to literature inventories received by the Society at the close of the 1977 service year, many congregations still have a good supply of older publications in stock, including many 384-page books. These books have a fine message that would be of great benefit to persons seeking the truth. During February and March we want to make this information available to people in our territory by offering three books for 60 cents.

The field overseer and the ministerial servant assigned to care for literature needs in the congregation should review what items are on hand as shown on your literature inventory. The combination of three books should include two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book. For each 384- or 416-page book placed the congregation will be able to request 30 cents credit at the end of each month. Publishers may obtain these larger books at the literature counter for 15c each. Among the publications to be used are the following:

384- or 416-Page Books

"Your Will Be Done on Earth"
"Things in Which It Is Impossible for God to Lie"
Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God
"Then Is Finished the Mystery of God"
"The Nations Shall Know that I Am Jehovah"—How?
Paradise Restored to Mankind—By Theocracy!
God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached
Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand!

Pocket-Size Books

Did Man Get Here by Evolution or by Creation?
God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good
Is the Bible Really the Word of God?

If your congregation does not have an adequate supply of these publications, you may order any of the books listed below from the Society to use in the campaign.

384- or 416-Page Books

"The Nations Shall Know that I Am Jehovah"—How?
Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand!
God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached
Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God

Pocket-Size Books

God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good
Is the Bible Really the Word of God?

You will likely be able to cover all your territory with this special offer. Follow up all interest and placements with a view to starting home Bible studies, using the most appropriate publication for this.

Make Wise Use of Your Elders

1 All the elders were pleased to learn on the second day of the "Joyful Workers" District Assembly that they were going to be able to attend the Kingdom Ministry School course in November and December. How can all of us benefit from the school?

2 The school underscored the serious responsibility of the elders to shepherd every one of Jehovah's sheep lovingly, to expend themselves unselfishly in behalf of the flock. Rather than standing apart from the congregation, the elders "belong to you." (1 Cor. 3:21-23) That is, they are primarily in their assigned positions to render service to their brothers. When you become spiritually sick, do you "call the older men," seeking the spiritual benefits that come from their experience and training? (Jas. 5:14) When problems or questions that you cannot solve come up in your life, do you wait for an elder to render help? If you have a question that the elder cannot answer, he will tell you so. But, perhaps he may be able to assist you to find the Scriptural answer. In the early Christian congregation the older men were "gifts" to their brothers. (Eph. 4:8) The same applies today. Let us benefit from the service they are able to render.

3 The importance of being an effective teacher was another subject stressed in the school. The elder's teaching is always to be based upon God's Word as was Jesus' instruction. (Matt. 4:4) His motive should be to honor our Father in heaven. (John 8:49, 50) When teaching in the congregation, the elders are to teach "the word." (2 Tim. 4:2) We are not given numerous rules in the Bible, so elders are encouraged not to make unnecessary rules for their brothers. How much the elders can benefit their brothers if their teaching is based on the principles of the Bible and they assist them to develop a good, clean conscience! So if you approach an elder for advice on a matter, he is in a position to help you to reason on the various principles that apply and show you portions of God's Word that can help you to make the right decision.

4 The matter of taking the lead and giving training in evangelizing work was also given careful consideration. In the United States there has been a drop in field service activity recently. Elders were reminded that the evangelizing work is more important than ever and that only "whole-souled" service is pleasing to Jehovah. (Col. 3:23) Accordingly, they should give careful attention to this activity.

5 However, do not feel that you must wait for an elder to invite you to share with him in this evangelizing work. Especially would this apply to our many new ones recently starting to praise Jehovah. We encourage you to approach your book study conductor or any one of the elders and ask him if you can share with him in the field service. Elders are encouraged to make it a regular practice to invite others to share with them in the field service. The closer relationship this brings will likely prompt you to seek the elders' help in other matters. If you do this, problems can often be handled before they grow to serious proportions.

6 In whatever time remains of this present old order, all who are truly elders will be working harder than ever to build up their brothers now, while they have opportunity. To all others, now is the time to take advantage of this provision of Jehovah. To such ones we say, "Make wise use of your elders."

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	651	134.0	48.6	4.5	130.2
Pios.	13,877	85.3	33.1	3.0	87.4
Aux. Pios.	14,409	60.4	19.8	1.4	63.9
Pubs.	491,828	8.4	3.8	.4	10.8
TOTAL	520,765				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,240

Schedule for congregation book studies in *World Government* book:

January 1: Pages 17 to 28*
January 8: Pages 28 to 36
January 15: Pages 37 to 44
January 22: Pages 45 to 55*
January 29: Pages 55 to 63

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* To subheading.

Announcements *(Cont'd)*

program, starting on February 5, 1978, district overseers will give the public talk "Have Faith in the Good News." Starting in March, circuit overseers will give a public talk with the theme: "How Should You Serve God?"

● A special public talk will be held on March 26, 1978, in all congregations. The subject: "The True Religion—How to Identify It." In due time a manuscript (or outline) will be sent to each congregation.

● New Publications Available:

God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good —French
Is This Life All There Is? —Greek, Hungarian, Zulu
Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It —Afrikaans, French
Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood —Dutch, German
"Singing and Accompanying Yourselves with Music in Your Hearts" Deluxe edition—French

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Being Resourceful

1 There is much to be learned when we study the example of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught us to follow his example in 'letting our light shine.' (Matt. 5:14-16) To achieve this in an effective way we must be resourceful.

2 When a sister goes to a laundromat, could she take her Bible, some literature and—particularly this month—some subscription blanks? Could it be that with a little initiative on her part she could strike up a conversation on world conditions, a recent local happening or something that someone else says? Those who use public transportation, who regularly visit a doctor's office or who otherwise are in contact with people, can be prepared to take advantage of these situations too.

3 For example, you might be reading the January 1, 1978, *Watchtower* in the presence of a co-worker during your lunch break and comment on how peoples' attitudes toward one another have changed in recent years. Then you might ask if your co-worker feels that the lowering of moral standards is a contributing factor. After getting his response, you could explain that the reason you asked was that you were just reading an article that shows how an accused murderer of a number of people got his "inspiration" from pornographic literature. Then you could call his attention to the scripture in the panel in the middle of page three, *Romans 12:9, 10.* Pursue the conversation and, if time and circumstances favor it, you could offer the subscription.

4 In our regular field activity from house to house this month, we *can* show resourcefulness. For example, a brother in house-to-house witnessing met a woman who said: "I am Greek. Can't speak English." He smiled, showed her the second page of *The Watchtower* where it states that it is published in Greek. He briefly stated with meaningful gestures that she could get it regularly in the mail. She subscribed.

5 Another brother met a woman at the door who said that she did not have much time. He stated, "Well, maybe we can get a chance to speak with you at length the next time we come. We are showing people from the Bible that the Kingdom is a righteous government under Jesus Christ that will soon bring peace to people of all races and nations. Before leaving I did want to mention that you can get *The Watchtower,* which explains these things in detail. It comes out twice a month." This took only a minute and a half, but she subscribed.

6 At times, discerning what a particular situation *calls for can make* the difference between success and failure. (Prov. 25:11) Each of us should meditate regularly on situations that confront us. Deciding how we can best take advantage of these situations with the goal of helping others get salvation is what is involved in our being re*sourceful in presenting the good* news.—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

New Literature Rates

Throughout the world costs are increasing. The materials we use in the production of our literature are costing more than ever before. Shipping and mailing costs have also gone up. We have reached the point where it is necessary to increase the prices of some of our publications.

As announced in *Our Kingdom Service* last month, as of January 1, 1978, the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* subscriptions will increase in price to $2.00 for a year's subscription and $1.00 for six months. At the same time the individual copies of the magazines will be offered for 10 cents per copy in the United States. Prices of individual copies to the congregations and pioneers in this country will be double what they were, namely, 8 cents to the congregations and 2 cents to the pioneers. Congregations will remit $1.85 for each subscription obtained by publishers and $1.00 on pioneers' subscriptions.

Also affected by the price increase from January 1 on is the regular edition of the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. In the United States the price change goes up to $1.50 for the public. This means that the congregations will be charged $1.40 and the pioneers 75c.

In some languages we publish only *the Christian Greek Scriptures.* The *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* will change proportionately. The public price will be 75c. Congregations will remit 70c, and pioneers 40c.

There will be no change in the price of the deluxe edition of the *New World Translation* at this time.

This increase in the literature rates on the above items will help the Society to meet the higher production and shipping costs involved and still make it possible for people everywhere to receive these publications for a small contribution.

Branch Letter (*Cont'd*)

we are excited over the expectations for the future. We are continuing to plan for future advancement and expansion with complete awareness that the "day of Jehovah" is approaching.—2 Pet. 3:11, 12.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

"All Day . . . I Will Bless You" (*Cont'd*)

will make us a blessing to one another.—Luke 6:45.

4 As we grow in appreciation of Jehovah's marvelous qualities, including his goodness, we will find ourselves 'bubbling over' about him, in accord with Psalm 145:7. No one will have to urge us to speak about spiritual matters to those inside or outside the Christian congregation. We will praise Jehovah on every appropriate occasion because our hearts will be full of deep-rooted feeling for Jehovah due to our knowledge and appreciation of him and his Son.—Col. 2:6, 7.

BENEFITS

5 What will result if we are generous in our expressions of praise about Jehovah? Those in our fam*ily will be encouraged and strengthened.* Other brothers and sisters to whom we speak will be incited to "love and fine works." (Heb. 10:24, 25) Those outside the Christian congregation to whom we give a witness can be motivated to "look hopefully" to Jehovah due to developing faith in him. (Ps. 145:15) All who listen can, therefore, be protected from the frustrating economic problems, unwholesome recreational activity and other pressures that can weaken our faith and cause us to lose sight of our relationship with Jehovah.—Prov. 18:10.

6 In the family arrangement parents who regularly discuss spiritual matters with their children will help them learn to love Jehovah. By responding to the spiritual needs of others in the congregation, speaking "consolingly to the depressed souls," we will benefit our Christian brothers. And we should seek opportunities to give a witness on every occasion, conversing with people about Jehovah and his promises, thus benefiting many more in the field.

7 The person with deep appre*ciation for Jehovah looks for opportunities* to "bless" him. He has something in his heart he *wants to tell.* (Ps. 40:8-10) We are richly blessed and are able to be a blessing to others when we become servants, who, like King David, desire to bless Jehovah "all day long."

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Abhor What Is Wicked—Why? (w78 1/1) Rom. 12:9, 10

A World Without Violence (w78 1/15) Ps. 37:10, 11

(Each topic is based on first article in Watchtower.)

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

FEBRUARY 1978
Vol. 21, No. 2
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Perhaps by this time you have noted on page two of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* that there have been some decreases in the number of magazines printed. One reason for the decrease in magazine placements has been the fact that more and more emphasis has been put on witnessing to people, engaging the householders in Bible discussions, rather than merely placing literature with them. Another cause has been the drop in the number of new subscriptions that the brothers have been getting. This has necessitated a cutting back in the production of the magazines. However, with all the fine information contained in the magazines, we are sure all of you will continue giving attention to using the magazines to good advantage in your Kingdom-preaching activity.

You will be interested in the results of the Kingdom Ministry School training given to elders all across this country in the months of November and December. Qualified instructors were used to pass along the information to all the elders in attendance, using the specially prepared textbook entitled "Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock." Among the subjects considered were these: "Imitate Jehovah, Our Loving Overseer," "Be Whole-souled in the Evangelizing Work" and "Overseers 'Ruling for Justice Itself.'"

What were the results of the schooling? Perhaps the best way to judge the benefits is to let you know what some of the elders have written to the Society concerning their brief schooling. From New York State came this comment: "Expressions from many of the brothers reflected gratitude for the dignity and relaxed atmosphere, which was conducive to learning." From Indiana this request came: "We hope it can be repeated in the

(*Continued on page 8, col. 3*)

THE BIBLE —A Practical Guide from Jehovah

[1] One of God's marvelous gifts to mankind has been his Word of truth, the Bible. It is truly a practical guide by which one comes to know God and to be guided by him as one follows the teachings of that Word. But how many of mankind know this and appreciate the value of God's Word in their lives? Really, very few. Yet the psalmist said of God's Word that it is a 'lamp to one's foot and a light to one's roadway.'—Ps. 119:105.

[2] In the spirit of neighbor love, what can we do to help others benefit from the wisdom of God as found in the Bible? For one thing, we need to be aware of some of the questions that might be raised by those not knowing about God's Word or who doubt the value of such Word in their lives.

HOW PRACTICAL FOR MANKIND?

[3] Some who are unacquainted with the value of the Word of God may say: "How would applying its counsel and advice help me now, in the present time? Would it make me rich, if I were poor; well, if I were ill? Would it make my life problem-free? What can it do for me?"

[4] As Christians we know that the Bible does not make the claim that such things as riches, better health and no problems in life will be the lot of those who heed its advice. We know that the Bible is not a book that takes one into a dreamworld and away from reality. It is not meant to be a book with a philosophical approach to life that refuses to face facts. What the Bible does do is face life as it is. Then, it goes a step beyond that and sets forth guidelines that will assist one in handling the problems of life. This, in many cases, results in much improvement in one's lot in life, bringing a large measure of happiness now, but, more importantly, the promise of life under the very conditions for which mankind everywhere yearns —a time of peace, genuine love and concern for one's fellowman under the Kingdom rule of this earth by Christ Jesus, God's Son.

[5] The Bible does not claim to make our lives problem-free. Nevertheless, in living by its guidelines a person can find his life improved because of his own change in his

(*Continued on page 7, col. 2*)

To Care Is to Share

[1] The apostle Paul said, "But I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer of it with others." (1 Cor. 9:23) In verse 19, Paul shows to what extent he was willing to go in order to do his part in extending the good news to others. He says: "For, though I am free from all persons, I have made myself the slave to all, that I may gain the most persons." In verse 22 he continues, "To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some."

WHAT MAY WE SHARE?

[2] Yes, to make disciples of Jesus Christ means more than sharing one hour of Bible study a week with them. Think of it! As these individuals learn of God's will for them, they begin to see the need to leave behind some old habits, old associations, old friends, old forms of recreation, in other words, the old system. Some of these persons are even alienated from their families when they take their stand for true worship! Is it logical to expect them to do all this without providing some reasonable replacement in these areas? Commenting on this, Jesus said: "Truly I say to you men, No one has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not get a hundredfold now in this period of time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, with persecutions, and in the coming system of things everlasting life."—Mark 10:29, 30.

[3] Jesus' assurance that those who take their stand for the good news would gain new friends and family even in this system does not make this happen automatically, does it? Isn't it really fulfilled by virtue of our efforts to make it so? In this way Jesus expressed his confidence that his disciples would extend themselves, their friendship, their support, their time, and their resources toward helping others, in imitation of his example. This type of sharing is done by those who truly CARE. Paul wrote one group

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 29

20 min: Song 18. Local announcements and consideration of article "The Bible—A Practical Guide from Jehovah" by questions and answers. Mention to brothers the names of the 384- and 416-page and the pocket-size books *your* congregation will be using in February at the special contribution of 60 cents.

10 min: A talk with highlights from publications to be used in field service in February. Talk may include the following points: (1) We have been blessed with knowledge of the truth and works of Jehovah through the printed page. Over the years received much insight into meaning of Sacred Scriptures (Prov. 4:18); (2) Want to share with others this knowledge that means life, so they appreciate the depth of the riches and knowledge of Jehovah (Rom. 11:33); (3) Using whatever publications you have in your congregation stock that will be placed in the field, highlight a point or two that can be used in the evangelizing work.

10 min: Consider "Meeting Schedule Adjustments" and Theocratic News.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—To Total Strangers." Discussion with the congregation on each of the seven points in the article. Give encouraging and upbuilding comments that will reach the brothers' hearts causing them to want to respond and share more fully in the evangelizing work. Song 22 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 5

Theme: Communication—Key to a Strong, Spiritual Family.

30 min: Song 14. Local announcements. Elders concerned with appearance of all in flock including young ones. (Prov. 27:23) Following part designed to give further help to young folks to make the truth their own—a way of life. Brother handling part should have good rapport with youths in congregation. Advisable sometime ahead of part to get views of young people on questions that follow, but no need to rehearse parts. Should be a frank, realistic approach eliciting straightforward observations from youths.

Interview cross section of young people in congregation. Emphasize: (1) While we were their age once, we appreciate times are changing and the problems faced by youth are changing too. Great need for them to tell us what is going on, and when we find it hard to understand, we want them to keep on telling us—we want to know; (2) We sympathize with their needs, we stand behind them. What can we do to help them? Chairman should put young people at ease. May want to have them in front rows to facilitate interviewing. Begin by asking young ones (ages 4-18) what their respective ages are, as well as their comments on the following:

What grade are you in at school?

Do you like school? Why or why not?

What do you think it means to be moral?

Do you think cheating at school is moral or immoral? Why?

Do you think taking drugs is moral or immoral? Why?

Do you find it easy to communicate with people your own age or the age of your parents? Why?

Do you think it is important for young people and their parents to be able to talk freely?

What could make this difficult at times?

How do you like to be treated?

(To parents) Why would it be in harmony with Jesus' teachings to show love and respect for our children? (Matt. 22:39)

(To young ones again) How do you earn such respect as a youth?

(Read Ephesians 6:4.) Do you think it is possible for parents to irritate their children? How?

Chairman should thank youths for their honest observations. We appreciate their association very much and want to develop and maintain good communication with them as their parents and friends.

12 min: Talk. Base comments on response of youths and parents in previous part. Invite audience to read scriptures and comment on them. Select and apply most appropriate of following Scriptural thoughts. One handling part needs to be discerning and kind. Explain that points in previous part not intended to embarrass or be offensive. Nonetheless, can learn from frank and realistic approach.

(1) If some young people do not see the need to get training and education in school, could use 1 Timothy 4:13 and Joshua 1:8 (regarding need to learn to read well); Proverbs 13:20 (regarding diligence in study being a protection); Titus 2:6, 7, 10 (regarding the desirability of young Christians' setting a fine example for schoolmates and teachers).

(2) If there is need for parents to get closer to children, show more concern for them, do more together, use Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 and Ephesians 6:4.

(3) If young people need help to correct wrong views on experimenting with drugs, tobacco, conduct with the opposite sex, and so forth, use 2 Corinthians 7:1; Matthew 22:39; 1 Corinthians 6:18; also 6:9, 10; Galatians 6:7; Proverbs 10:1.

(4) If parents have been screaming at children or perhaps short-tempered with them, use Ephesians 4:31, 32; Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

(5) If children need to show more respect for parents, use Colossians 3:20; Proverbs 30:17; 3:1, 2.

18 min: Studying with Your Children. Questions and answers. Include appropriate experiences of points made as time permits. One thing to have a fairly close-knit, well-adjusted family. Some worldly families accomplish this. Another thing to have a spiritually-minded family who stick to each other and Jehovah, reflecting spiritual training of good quality. While having a regular family study can help, much more needed if young folks are to make truth their own. The following may be helpful and practical.

QUESTION: Must subject material in a family study follow rigid routine week after week?

ANSWER: No, flexibility keeps the discussion practical and stimulating. Not limited to study of *The Watchtower* or book; may include reading and discussing portion of Bible together, certain articles in magazines, and so forth.

QUESTION: How should subject material be chosen?

ANSWER: According to needs of family. For some it may be learning how to relate to and love Jehovah as a person or properly to value the power of prayer. For others, advisable to think ahead to problems youths face such as dating, involvement in school programs, extracurricular activities, sports, fads, immoral tendencies, and so forth. Discuss whatever the family needs, doing so a number of times well in advance of the problem or temptation that might arise.

QUESTION: When should a family study be held and for how long?

ANSWER: Family heads can determine according to family needs. May want to have abbreviated discussion several times weekly if children are young. Good to take into consideration attention span so that most good will be accomplished.

QUESTION: How can we be sure that we are reaching hearts of our children during these discussions?

ANSWER: Make sure answers given in own words. Ask supplementary questions designed to determine how child really feels about matter discussed. Take time to let each one express himself so there is no misunderstanding or lack of appreciation for point being made.

QUESTION: What are some things to be avoided?

ANSWER: Course of wisdom not to make discussion period too regimented. All should look forward to it with anticipation. Wise parents will not use these periods to scold their children using Bible or publications as weapon. Will wisely inculcate Bible truths deeply into hearts of children with patience, skill, kindness and discernment according to individual needs of each child. Concluding remarks. Song 67 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 12

20 min: Song 100. Announcements. "Reading the Bible with Your Family"—Why and How? (*w*77 11/1) Discuss with audience.

(1) Why your family should read the Bible together:
- Essential part of true worship
- Most direct way to absorb God's laws and principles
- Draws one closer to Jehovah
- Draws the family together
- Enhances reading skills
- Enjoyable experience that requires little or no preparation

(2) How you can make your family Bible reading more lively and meaningful:
- Create relaxed atmosphere for family
- Pick appropriate sections to read; may select portions of scripture pertinent to present family needs
- Read as if you mean it! Relive the occasion!
- Where considerable dialogue allows for it, might assign characters to different family members
- Research answers to questions that arise from Bible reading
- Allow yourselves time—Bible reading becomes more enjoyable with practice

20 min: "To Care Is to Share." Question-and-answer discussion of article on page one.

20 min: Local experiences demonstrating that caring means sharing. Ask publishers what was shared with them when they started learning the truth, and how they felt about it. Also what opportunities they have had to share with their students and the results. Song 37 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 19

10 min: Song 32. Local announcements.

50 min: "Pioneer Service—Is It for

(*Continued on page 8, col. 3*)

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PIONEER SERVICE—Is It for You?

[1] No doubt many of you have asked yourselves: "Is the pioneer service for me?" This is commendable, for it indicates your desire to share even to a greater extent in spreading the good news of the Kingdom. That is what our dedication to Jehovah implies, does it not?—that we devote ourselves to the worship of Jehovah our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Mark 12:30) However, not all of us can pioneer, and that is understandable. Some of us have family and other obligations, and others of us have poor health or we are getting on in years. But no doubt there are many more who could experience that great joy of serving our Grand Creator in pioneer service. We therefore want to take a realistic approach to this matter by answering a few questions that many have asked. One question is this:

Ques. 1 "I'VE HEARD THAT PIONEERING IS NOT FOR EVERYONE. HOW DO I KNOW IF IT IS FOR ME OR NOT?"

[2] This depends in a large measure on your circumstances and Scriptural responsibilities. There are some whose position in life does not permit their spending 90 hours every month in direct Kingdom witnessing. But this does not mean that they are less faithful. There are, for example, many devoted housewives who are fine examples as Christian wives and mothers and who seek to share the good news at every opportunity. Some are moved to spend many hours each month in taking the good news to their neighbors. Their activity is productive and brings them joy in that they are privileged to lead new ones into association with the congregation. And as they have opportunity they may spend a month every so often as auxiliary pioneers, reaping the joys that come from that service. (Gal. 6:9) In their present circumstances it is just beyond their capacity to be regular pioneers. But this does not prevent them from building up the pioneer spirit in the congregation. They can take along with them in their service younger and newer publishers, helping these to become proficient in teaching others, and encouraging them to take part in auxiliary and regular pioneer work.

[3] There are many, though, who are free of family obligations and who are in a position to pioneer. It is good, therefore, that we examine ourselves now and again, asking the question, Could I be doing more in proclaiming the good news? From our study of God's Word, all of us appreciate that we are deep into the period of the "last days." That is why Satan's system is surrounding us with the worsening conditions described at 2 Timothy 3:1-5. The enemy is trying to engulf all of God's people in this loveless, materialistic world. But no! We are separate from the world, and "this is the conquest that has conquered the world, our faith." (1 John 5:4) So on the basis of this faith, we should be reaching out to embrace all of the privileges of service available to us. If we are free to reach out for auxiliary and, perhaps later, regular pioneer service, we should do so. This raises the question:

Ques. 2 "HOW CAN I BE SURE I CAN GET ALONG ECONOMICALLY IF I GO PIONEERING?"

[4] This too is a test of your faith. Whether we are congregation publishers, or whether we reach out for pioneer service, Jesus' words at Matthew 6:30-33 apply to all of us: "If, now, God thus clothes the vegetation of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much rather clothe you, you with little faith? So never be anxious and say, 'What are we to eat?' or, 'What are we to drink?' or, 'What are we to put on?' For all these are the things the nations are eagerly pursuing. For your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. *Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom* and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you." So, God assures us that he will provide all the necessities of life if we take him at his word, pressing on with faith in doing his will. If we are in a position that we may adjust our affairs to enter pioneer service, and take the initiative in doing this, Jehovah will continue to provide. Look the whole world over and you will never find a faithful pioneer forced to beg for bread!—Ps. 37:25, 26.

[5] Being practical about this, why not talk to some of the happy pioneers in your own congregation or in your circuit—those who have found joy in this service for two, three and more years, some even for 20 or 30 years. This will help to remove uncertainty as to whether pioneer service is for you. Talk with these ones who have made pioneering their vocation, and who continue to rejoice in this service. They can explain just how they do it. They can tell you of the initial problems that they had to overcome, how they schedule their service, their meetings and other duties, so that nothing is neglected. And once you have started to pioneer, these "old hands" can no doubt continue to give you good advice. Have faith, too, that Jehovah can provide ways to overcome even mountainlike obstacles.—Matt. 17:20.

[6] A circuit overseer who recently visited Brooklyn from the Orient told of a sister who often shared in auxiliary pioneer work. Her example indicates what faith can do. She was living in

Manchuria when the atom bomb destroyed Hiroshima, and with it most of her family. The shock of this news so weakened her physical system that, shortly after she returned to Japan, she became an invalid, paralyzed in her entire body. Then she learned the truth and was baptized. How she wanted to tell this glorious hope to others! Though she could use only the muscles of her face, she learned to write with a pencil or crayon in her mouth, and to illustrate beautifully the writings that she would send out to interested persons concerning the Kingdom hope. She would also witness to many others who called to see her at her home. When the circuit overseer visited, he found that she had averaged 106 hours in service for the previous six months. What a fine illustration of how invincible faith can help overcome obstacles to having a fuller share in the spreading of the good news!

7 Longtime pioneers can tell thrilling stories concerning the conquests made by virtue of their faith. They can tell of times when everything looked dark; nevertheless, they kept on, and then in most unexpected ways the problems often were removed to enable them to continue enjoying their treasured pioneer service. Though they may have become worn out and tired at times, their self-sacrificing course has brought rich blessings from Jehovah. They are a demonstration that, true to his promise, Jehovah "is giving to the tired one power; and to the one without dynamic energy he makes full might abound."—Isa. 40:29.

8 The pressures of this materialistic world seem to affect some more than others. However, we should have faith that these pressures need not block our becoming pioneers. In some countries where materialistic enticements abound, great numbers of our fellow Christians are sharing in pioneer work. For example, in Japan, upwards of 25 percent of all publishers are presently enjoying some features of the pioneer service each month. What has made it possible for these and others throughout the world to take up the pioneer service?

9 Successful pioneers are spiritually motivated, and this of course is something they have in common with all of God's servants who are serving whole-souled. All of us, for example, believe that we are living in the "last days." We love Jehovah and his arrangements for our everlasting happiness. We do not feel this is just another religion. Though there are many material things around us, we make every effort not to be captured by such things. Those who have decided to pioneer, however, often have taken a fresh look at their economic circumstances. They have developed a concept of life which is to live simply, and they are industrious. In short, after thoroughly evaluating their circumstances they have made room for this in their lives.

10 In areas where many participate in the pioneer work, youths frequently enter this service immediately after high school, often because parents have set this goal before them from childhood. Bible students may already have pioneering as a goal before they are baptized. Many housewives in Japan who are pioneers have found it a definite advantage to keep their homes simple and uncluttered. After the children leave for school, these sisters clean the house efficiently and quickly and then head out into the service. Some heads of families have taken part-time jobs that others dislike—jobs that have early hours or disagreeable work—so they can pioneer. In many cases, it is this different approach to their economic situation that has enabled some to do more in Jehovah's service by means of the pioneer work. In faith, these brothers and sisters have reached out and have been blessed with the joys of pioneer service. Can you reach out and experience similar joys? It is for you to weigh your circumstances, consider the opportunities, and decide. But, then, someone asks:

Ques. 3 "I AM A TEEN-AGER AND CAN HARDLY FORESEE WHAT I WANT TO DO BEYOND THE NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO, MUCH LESS CONSIDER PIONEERING AS A LIFETIME CAREER."

11 The word "career" has a sense of permanency that you may not be ready for, and that is understandable. You may not be familiar with the pioneer work. Perhaps you have given some thought to getting married and raising a family, with its obvious effect on your ability to stay in the pioneer service. These are valid matters of personal concern.

12 Then, too, for many young people, the time leading to and following graduation from high school is one of uncertainty. Until now your time has been largely programmed for you, and you have not had a lot of decisions to make about your own life. But this is all the more reason why you should give careful thought to what you are going to do next.

13 Your decisions at this point may determine to a large extent what direction your life will take in the coming years. So even though your goals may not be fixed yet, likely you do want to fill your life with something that will be rewarding and fulfilling. Rather than automatically filling the vacuum left after finishing school with a full-time job, why not think about spending a few months auxiliary pioneering? If you enjoy it, you may decide to go on to regular pioneering.

14 After several months or a year of such service, probably your view of what you want to do with your life will be somewhat clearer. Even if the decision is to marry, many couples have benefited greatly from the experience of pioneering together

during the early part of their marriage—one or both often continuing in the pioneer service throughout married life.

[15] In any event, whether single or married, your period of pioneering will have advanced and rounded out your education in a way that no other activity or career training can provide. The experience you will have gained in approaching and dealing with people of various backgrounds, in facing and overcoming obstacles on your own and in developing personal organization and self-discipline will be invaluable to you in later life. And remember—you will never really know unless you try it.

[16] Circumstances in life change for all of us. Remember that none of us know what tomorrow will bring. There are few things in life that can remain truly permanent. So why not take a serious look at your present situation and weigh the matter of pioneering carefully. If nothing hinders you now other than indecision, why not set out on a course you know to be in line with Jehovah's will for our time? It may prove to be the best career for you.

Ques. 4 "I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT MEETING PIONEER REQUIREMENTS CAN BECOME A REAL PRESSURE IF YOU FAIL TO MAKE YOUR TIME DUE TO SICKNESS OR OTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS."

[17] It is true that if you enroll in the regular pioneer service you will be asked to spend at least 90 hours each month in the field service, or 1,000 hours each year. Under normal conditions, most pioneers find this to be a reasonable goal. On the average, this means spending only about three hours a day in the field service. Of course, pressures could easily develop if you do not properly schedule your time and if you lack the self-discipline to stick to it.

[18] However, serious acute illness or other major unforeseen events could also cause you to lose a lot of time in the Kingdom work. To make up for this, you might have to spend five, six or even more hours witnessing each day for several months. Or, a pioneer may drop behind by a hundred or more hours early in the service year due to some unforeseen circumstance. Then later in the year, as he works to make up the lost time, what if another serious problem arises and puts him even further behind in reaching the goals? This, together with trying to support himself by part-time work could get to be a real burden, weighing heavily on the conscientious pioneer's mind. Apparently many choose not to become pioneers because of worrying about what may never happen. Is there a solution?

[19] Yes. We would like you to know that if you are temporarily ill, or for some other urgent reason you cannot meet the required minimum of hours for a few months, you may ask the body of elders in your congregation to write the Society a letter to accompany your report, giving us the details of your problem. If the elders, after thorough consideration, think it would be advisable for you to be allowed to continue on in the pioneer service *without worrying about making up the lost time,* then they should make that recommendation to us, and we will be pleased to give consideration to your circumstances.

[20] Of course, with the present arrangement of only 1,000 hours required for the year, it is not expected that pioneers would be taking time away from their pioneer service for nonessential activities that would cause them to fall behind in their hours in the service. Or if the reason for low hours is poor scheduling or lack of self-discipline, the pioneer should feel it necessary to make up such lost time. However, where there is an unusual period of sickness, or accidents or serious family problems suddenly come along, you may be assured that we will consider your needs as a pioneer. We believe this arrangement will remove some of the pressure from pioneers who have good reason to request consideration in this matter.

[21] Many pioneers have been zealous servants of Jehovah for years and with all their hearts want to continue on in the pioneer work, and we want them to do so. But what if one finds that he just cannot meet the requirements consistently over a long period of time? Then, no doubt it would be the course of wisdom to return to serving as a congregation publisher and share whenever possible in the auxiliary pioneer service.

[22] However, we hope that this additional consideration for the problems of pioneers will encourage those already enrolled to continue with their sacred service, and we hope, too, that for those of you considering the pioneer work, a possible obstacle in the way of a positive decision has been removed.

Ques. 5 "I WOULD LIKE TO FEEL THAT I AM REALLY ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING IN WHAT I DO AND I WANT TO BE HAPPY DOING IT. WILL PIONEERING GIVE ME THIS KIND OF SATISFACTION?"

[23] Well, what does it take to make you happy? Jesus' Sermon on the Mount lists nine ways to be happy. (Matt. 5:3-12) Some of the things he lists may or may not, on the surface, appeal to you as a source of happiness. But in reflecting on these "happinesses," do not the underlying principles strike home? They show that neither one's present situation in life subject to time and unforeseen occurrence, nor purely humanitarian acts bring true happiness.

[24] Rather, complete happiness, Jesus teaches, stems from activities related to the worship of Jehovah and the fulfillment of his promises. It comes from doing what we know deep-down to

be right. True, there are many things in life that bring a measure of happiness, but happiness can only be truly complete when we add the sense of purpose that spiritual pursuits bring. And Jesus wisely pointed out the greater happiness of giving to others compared to just enjoying things ourselves. Certainly there is no greater gift that we can offer to our fellowman than the hope of everlasting life.—Acts 20:35.

25 But, you may ask, How can pioneering make me feel that I am accomplishing something, when I know that some publishers are even more successful in helping people learn the truth than some pioneers?

26 First, it would be good to put what constitutes "accomplishment" into proper focus. Success cannot always be judged by outward results. Some people, because of their personalities or natural abilities, are quite successful in persuading others to accept Jehovah's sovereignty and they are indeed blessed for their work. But it is not numbers that count with Jehovah. Rather, it is what we do in a heartfelt way to publicize and honor his name.

27 And sometimes results are not readily apparent. Our work may have a powerful influence for good even if we do not seem to be as productive as others. This point was made by the wise man at Ecclesiastes 11:6: "In the morning sow your seed and until the evening do not let your hand rest; for you are not knowing where this will have success, either here or there, or whether both of them will alike be good."

28 If your happiness comes from permanent, worthwhile things, rather than the fleeting benefits offered by the world, and if you are convinced that Jehovah's kingdom will soon provide life in abundance to all who serve him and your circumstances will allow you to share more fully in telling others about it—then, yes, pioneering will give you a sense of accomplishment that will indeed make you a happy person.

Ques. 6 "WHETHER I PIONEER OR NOT—ISN'T THAT MY OWN BUSINESS, SINCE IT'S NOT REQUIRED FOR EVERLASTING LIFE?"

29 True, pioneering is not a requirement for everlasting life. But serving God with a complete heart and with our whole soul is. And when it comes to pioneering, the principle of 2 Corinthians 9:7 (*The New English Bible*) is appropriate: "Each person should give as he has decided for himself; there should be no reluctance, no sense of compulsion; God loves a cheerful giver." So if others were to try to decide if *you* should pioneer, it would involve judging your circumstances and your heart, something that we humans have no right to do.

30 Obviously it is up to each one personally to determine what to do, in accord with one's heart motivation and circumstances. "Let him prove what his own work is," writes Paul, "and then he will have cause for exultation in regard to himself alone, and not in comparison with the other person."—Gal. 6:4.

31 So, to the question of who should pioneer, we have to agree that only you can answer. But we hope the information here provided will help you to weigh this important matter in the proper light. There are some indicators that may assist you to reach the right decision.

32 For example, if you are strongly attracted to the "good life" and want to surround yourself with material possessions, then likely pioneering will have little appeal to you. Spending 90 hours a month in the disciple-making work and caring for other responsibilities in this system of things calls for a spirit of self-sacrifice. This does not mean that pioneers are trying to please God by practicing self-denial. Balanced pioneers do not necessarily give 'until it hurts.' On the other hand, they do not feel that it hurts to give.

33 Another factor you should seriously review is whether you are considering pioneering for the right reasons, spiritual reasons. Those who undertake this service for less than spiritual reasons often find that it soon loses its appeal. The reality that it is work soon makes them lose interest. For example, if one pioneers merely because his best friends are doing it, he may not have a solid basis for continuing.

34 Neither should pioneering be a way for some to feel superior to others who are not doing so. To view oneself this way would be to assume that one is serving God whole-souled and others are not. This would be a dangerous attitude to adopt, even as Paul declares: "Who are you to judge the house servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls."—Rom. 14:4.

35 On the other hand, if you are willing to place first priority on helping others to come to a knowledge of God and his purposes, then pioneering merits your serious consideration. Of course, your circumstances should be such that you could meet the requirements by adjusting your affairs, making the needed sacrifices.

36 If you hesitate simply because you doubt your own capabilities or are uncertain about what the future may bring, then we can only recommend the advice Jehovah gives to those willing to trust him by doing their part: "Put me to the proof . . . and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour a blessing on you as long as there is need."—Mal. 3:10, *The New English Bible.*

So, is pioneering for you? We rejoice with you if this information has enabled you to say—"Yes, for me!" And if it is your decision to pioneer, you may indeed look forward to a most joyful privilege.

To Care Is to Share (*Cont'd*)

of Christians, "So, *having a tender affection for you,* we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the good news of God, but *also our own souls,* because you became beloved to us."—1 Thess. 2:8.

UNSELFISHNESS REQUIRED

4 Sharing to this extent requires a great degree of unselfishness. It means doing for these potential disciples many of the things we appreciate from our friends and family. It may be as little as telephoning them during the week to see how they are doing, or it may be as much as helping them to locate employment. Are you a carpenter? Have you offered to repair that small item in their home that you observed in need of some attention? Are you a mother? Could you help on occasion with the children? Can you invite them to your home for a meal? or go to their home for one? Due to an existing need, some brothers and sisters have helped their students to learn how to drive. Others have shown deserving ones in need where to shop for bargains locally, helped them to move and even repaired their automobiles. Are your students starting to discuss their newly found hope with others? Can you provide encouragement and assistance for them to do so?

5 Sharing sometimes involves accepting rather than offering something. For example, accepting an invitation from a wife who is studying to come over and share a meal with her and her opposing husband. Or accepting an offer from your student to help you in some small, practical way.

6 It is good to keep in mind that *caring* comes first, then *sharing*. Caring is the cause; sharing is the effect. We should care about people because God loves them, and we should share with them, not merely as a means to an end, but because we really care. Sharing with these potential disciples should not be difficult, as sharing should be a way of life for us as Christians. As a matter of fact, sharing with these interested persons should really be an extension of our relationship with our brothers and sisters. Paul said, "Really, then, as long as we have time favorable for it, let us work what is good toward *all,* but especially toward those related to us in the faith." (Gal. 6:10) If we really care about those with whom we study the Bible, they will likely come to appreciate the truth, not only as correct doctrine, but as it really is—a way of life.

Announcements

- Literature offer for March: Three books for 60c. Should include two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book from list on page three of January 1978 *Our Kingdom Service.* April: *Watchtower* subscription with a free 384- or 416-page book for $2.00.
- On Saturday, April 15, the Bethel home and factory and Watchtower Farms buildings will be closed for spring cleaning; so there will be no arrangement for tours on that day.
- When our present stock of not-at-home slips runs out this spring, we will start sending a new one called "Alive and Healthy Forever! Is It Really Possible?" Congregations should use up the ones now available before using the new ones. From time to time others will be provided.
- After March 15, congregations may begin ordering the *Watch Tower Publications Index* for 1977. The indexes are 10 cents each.
- The April 15 *Watchtower* and April 22 *Awake!* will be special issues. Be sure to place your order early for extra copies, including those that will be needed by auxiliary pioneers.
- The Society is sending a manuscript to each congregation for the discourse "The True Religion—How to Identify It" to be delivered on March 26. The speaker assigned by the body of elders may prepare an outline from the material and deliver the talk extemporaneously if he desires.
- New Publications Available:

  Holy Spirit—The Force Behind the Coming New Order! —Afrikaans, Dutch

  A Secure Future—How You Can Find It —Croatian, Kissi, Sepedi, Swahili, Tshiluba, Twi

  There Is Much More to Life! —Chichewa, Fijian, Kikongo, Kiluba, Sepedi, Thai
- The new telephone number for Watchtower Farms starting February 4, 1978, is 914-744-2041. Please use this number when calling the Magazine Department regarding subscriptions and congregation magazine orders. Mail from congregations regarding subscriptions and distributors' orders should be sent to Watchtower, R.D. 1, Box 300, Wallkill, New York 12589, for prompt handling.

Meeting Schedule Adjustments

Beginning with the month of March, the length of public talks in the congregation will be reduced to 45 minutes. This will include the public talks given by circuit overseers when they visit congregations. This adjustment means that the total time for both the public meeting and the *Watchtower* study of the congregation each week will be two hours, *including the songs and prayers.* This will allow for a *Watchtower* study of about one hour.

When the circuit overseer visits he will give a 45-minute public talk, followed by a one-half hour *Watchtower* study without paragraphs being read, and then he will give his concluding talk. The entire meeting, including the songs and prayers, can be handled in a total of two hours.

Public speakers can continue to use their prepared outlines but will have in mind adjusting their public talks by reducing the amount of material they cover in the future so as to complete their talks in 45 minutes. Occasionally there may be a *special* public talk that will be 55 minutes or longer in length, which means the overall meeting time will run over two hours.

This arrangement for the regular public talk and *Watchtower* study, including songs and prayers, to be covered in two hours, will be similar to the service meeting and Theocratic School, which are held for two hours, including songs and prayers.

The Bible—A Practical Guide (*Cont'd*)

manner of living. For example, many have succeeded in breaking the money-wasting habits of tobacco and drug abuse, also overindulgence in eating and drinking.

6 Additionally, following the practical advice of the Bible helps one mentally. This may in turn lead to better health and a more balanced outlook on life. It has been estimated that as many as 50 to 70 percent of the patients going to a family doctor suffer from illnesses of an emotional rather than a physical nature. The Bible directs people away from those things that can damage the emotions and sour the attitudes of individuals. (Eph. 4:31, 32) Replacing negative views with a positive outlook, the Bible and its practical counsel can certainly be a contributing factor in one's gaining the blessing of Jehovah, which makes rich.—Prov. 10:22.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

7 Why not encourage someone you know, a friend, relative or neighbor, to get better acquainted with the Bible? By regularly having a share in talking to people in your congregation territory about this practical book, you will bring joy to many and satisfaction to yourself.—Acts 20:35.

8 During February the offer, on a contribution of 60 cents, will be two 384- or 416-page bound books from the stock that you have in your congregation, along with one of the following pocket-size books: *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?*, *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good* and *Did Man Get Here by Evolution or by Creation?* May our course of neighbor love bring many good results as we tell others about the Bible—the practical guide from Jehovah.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

To Total Strangers

For many of us it is very difficult to approach the home of a total stranger to converse about the Bible and God's kingdom. To talk to a friend, neighbor or relative, someone with whom we are acquainted, does not present nearly the problem that talking to a stranger does. To assist us in preparing ourselves for this work of evangelizing among strangers, the following questions and answers may prove helpful.

1. *What is the first thing to have in mind?* Prayer to Jehovah for his help and blessing to go with us as we seek to do his will.

2. *How do you approach the door?* We need the right frame of mind. This means we do not want to prejudge the householder. We may subconsciously do so by thinking that the neighborhood in which he lives, the predominant religion of the area, the general view of the people, automatically mean this stranger at the door is not going to be interested in what we have to say. Rather, we want to view each person as a *potential friend,* interested in the good news that we are bringing, leaving the outcome and the judgment in Jehovah's hands. With this view we should feel more at ease.

3. *What do we first say to the householder?* Something that should be encouraging to the stranger you face. For example, a warm greeting, a word about the weather or the person's home if it is neat and well kept, something that will show we are interested in the person to whom we speak. Then in a kind way bring to his attention the purpose of our call. The Topic for Conversation this month suggests using an approach based on Psalm 119:105. A comment to the householder that may be appropriate is that as humans all of us look to someone or something as a guide. We might ask: "Have you ever thought about the guide the Almighty God has given us to help us in meeting the problems of life?"

4. *What next?* At this point, if at all possible, draw the stranger into the conversation. Ask his opinion. If he is willing, let him express himself. Don't worry that you will have to do all the talking. Be a good listener. Even if his views are contrary to yours, that need not be a problem. You are not there to argue but to offer to show him what God's Word says.

5. *What if a question is asked that you do not know the answer to?* You need not fear if this should happen. Straightforwardly say that you do not know the answer, but you will find out and return to pass along what you have learned for the person's benefit. This may open the way for a fine return visit. When we do not know something, there is every reason to admit it. Oftentimes our honesty impresses the householder and may lead to his listening more intently when we return.

6. *What if the householder is rude, definitely not interested?* We can offer no better advice than that found in God's Word. "An answer, when mild, turns away rage." (Prov. 15:1) "Let your reasonableness become known to all men." (Phil. 4:5) Being reasonable, we will not take their rejection as a personal affront, realizing that it may well be because they do not understand the value of what we bring. We can leave graciously, with some kind expression and this may have a beneficial effect on the person.—Compare Colossians 4:6.

7. *What is our objective in our evangelizing work?* Our objective is to preach the good news of the Kingdom, to make disciples of people of all the nations, teaching them. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Our success is not dependent on what we distribute in the way of literature, though, of course, we know such would indeed be a blessing to those who are receptive. Living the truth as we spread the Word of truth among strangers is what brings great praise to Jehovah.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	627	131.4	48.0	4.7	101.6
Pios.	13,678	84.9	33.0	3.1	74.0
Aux. Pios.	9,690	60.2	20.2	1.6	51.3
Pubs.	487,190	8.1	3.7	.4	9.3
TOTAL	511,185				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,366

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

God's Word—A Practical Guide for Our Time.—Psalm 119:105.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *World Government* book:

February 5: Pages 64 to 70
February 12: Pages 71 to 82*
February 19: Pages 82 to 89
February 26: Pages 90 to 98*

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* To subheading.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ **During the month of September, Italy reported new peaks in publishers for all of its territories, with 67,141 in Italy, 62 in San Marino and six in Libya.**

◆ **In September Paraguay reached its third consecutive peak in publishers, with 1,547 reporting.**

◆ **The Shipping Department of the Chile branch dispatched 7,449 Babylon books and 6,790 Finished Mystery books to the congregations in response to orders during a special campaign highlighting these publications in September. Many of the congregations placed all the books they had before the month was over.**

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

future, perhaps periodically." One brother in Washington State wrote: "It was a joyful occasion for a man of 93 years to go to school; never too old to learn. We thank the Lord for this provision." From California the elders in one school wrote: "May we take this opportunity to send along a special thank you for the provision of the Kingdom Ministry School Course."

May all of us, the elders and all in the congregation, reap the benefits of the training given so that we can, on "fine soil," bear good fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty or thirty.—Matt. 13:23.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Your Service Meetings *(Cont'd)*

You?" Consideration of pioneer insert. To be handled in an enthusiastic and lively manner by capable brother(s). Have brothers or sisters ask the boldface-type questions, and have capable brother read the paragraphs suggested below for each section. After reading the paragraphs suggested for each question, briefly discuss with the audience the corresponding highlight outlined below.

Ques. 1. Read paragraphs 2, 3.
Your circumstances and Scriptural obligations will help you determine if pioneering is for you or not.

Ques. 2. Read paragraphs 4, 5, 10.
Be practical, consider your circumstances, your opportunities and have faith that if you keep on seeking first the Kingdom, Jehovah will continue to provide for your needs.

Ques. 3. Read paragraphs 12-16.
Try auxiliary pioneering. It may help you determine what to do with the rest of your life.

Ques. 4. Read paragraphs 17-20.
Consideration will be given to those with serious health or personal problems who find they cannot make up lost time.

Ques. 5. Read paragraphs 23-28.
A sense of accomplishment comes from sharing as fully as possible in the preaching work, with or without apparent results.—Eccl. 11:6.

Ques. 6. Read paragraphs 29-36.
Only you can decide if pioneering is for you. It must be done with the right motive stemming from a keen desire to help people and to glorify God. —2 Cor. 9:7.

Song 35 and prayer.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

MARCH 1978
Vol. 21, No. 3
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Truly all of us have reason to rejoice because of having come to a knowledge of the truth. Since true worship brings great joy, you may have been surprised to learn that, despite the fact that nearly 28,000 were baptized in the United States during the 1977 service year, a monthly average of 14,270 fewer persons reported having shared in field activity.

This may well have given you reason for concern, and we share that concern. Doubtless a number of factors are responsible. Some may have been caught up in the whirl of materialistic living or in anxieties of life. Old age or infirmity may have affected how much some individuals can do.

However, we need to examine ourselves. Do we have the same love for the truth that we did at first? (Rev. 2:4) Jesus Christ stated: 'Out of the heart's abundance the mouth speaks.' (Luke 6:45) So, might it be that some of us have neglected regular reading of and meditation on God's Word? Those of us who are elders especially need to consider whether we have set a fine example in public witnessing and whether good field service arrangements exist in the congregation.

However, there are some encouraging signs. Magazine placements, subscriptions and return visits were higher in November 1977 as compared with the same month the year before. Bible studies are also starting to increase again.

There is much work to do. Our commission to make disciples has not changed. (Matt. 28:19, 20) The Grand Evangelizer is still sponsoring the preaching of the "good news" and it is our privilege and joy to work with him in this, to his honor and for the blessing of others.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Getting Ready for Memorial

[1] Why will you attend the Memorial this year? Surely one reason would be to show appreciation to Jehovah for providing his Son as our Ransomer. It is a happy time, one of rejoicing, for the occasion reminds us that Jesus "conquered the world," by keeping his integrity right to the death. (John 16:33) Our appreciation for the love that has been shown to us should move each of us to be in attendance and to help others to be there on Thursday night, March 23, after sundown.

[2] Did you know that last year, in the United States alone, the Memorial attendance exceeded by 720,705 the number of publishers sharing in service during the same month? Will all of these and more attend this year? It depends much, does it not, on what we do to make the occasion widely known and personally help persons to be there? Perhaps for a week or two before Memorial we can use our service time to concentrate on inviting friends and interested people to attend. We may wish to use the telephone to reach those we cannot visit personally, or we might send an invitation through the mail. Perhaps we can even arrange to pick them up and bring them to this most sacred occasion.

[3] Although we want to give due attention to the cleanness and repair of the Kingdom Hall for this event, it is most important to be concerned with the talk itself. Hence, the speaker will want to give special attention to his material so that the talk will be understandable even for new ones. He should also strive to build up the faith of all in attendance. When the time comes for the Memorial, each of us can help by warmly welcoming newcomers and making all feel at home so that they will want to come again. Discussing together the significance of the Memorial will help remind us of the need to show love toward one another and others.—John 13:34, 35; 1 Thess. 3:12, 13.

SPECIAL PUBLIC TALK

[4] It is appropriate and timely that our special talk on March 26 deals with the subject "The True Religion—How to Identify It." Those who are with us for Memorial can be enthusiastically encouraged to come again and learn from the talk why Jehovah's Wit-

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

Personal Goals Are Helpful

[1] Is it not a good feeling to have the sense of accomplishment that comes from successfully achieving a goal? When we use goals in a reasonable manner in our field service and other areas of life, much can be accomplished to the glory of our heavenly Father.

[2] There are various aspects of our lives that can be improved by our use of goals. Many desire to accomplish more in personal study, making it their aim to read through the Bible by a certain time, or setting aside a certain time each week for personal study and then not letting other things get in the way. Others may be concerned that they are not absorbing as much of what they study as they would like. So that the material you study will be more easily remembered, why not make it your purpose to use it in some way in the field service or in discussions with others? Setting the objective to improve in speaking ability has helped many become effective public speakers. The Theocratic School is very helpful in this regard. For those who do not read as well as they desire, a number of congregations have reading classes that can put them on the right road for improvement.

[3] We would all like to continue improving in the application of the fruitage of the spirit in our lives. One way to accomplish this is to make an honest evaluation of ourselves to see in what areas we may be lacking and then try to improve in those aspects to a reasonable degree. For example, at times we may not have as much self-control as we would like. We may need to show a little more patience or long-suffering. If so, we can work on that.

[4] In the area of field service, some have found that they are spending a reasonable amount of time but are not getting the results they wish, or find it difficult to get people interested in what they are saying. Likely we could accomplish more by making it our aim to get into Bible discussions with people. We can accomplish this by deciding in advance what subjects are generally of interest to the

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 26

20 min: Song 52. Announcements. Talk on the subject How Are Our Brothers Doing? with some highlights from the introductory material of the *1978 Yearbook*, pages 3-32. (Pick out points that would be of interest to your congregation.)

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—Using *Bible Topics for Discussion.*" Chairman introduces part using Romans 10:15, explaining offer for month and service arrangements. During March we will again be offering two 384- or 416-page books with a pocket-size book for 60 cents. Publishers may want to highlight the *Word of God*, *"Eternal Purpose"* or *Evolution* book using Psalm 119:105 as a basis for the discussion.

Publishers demonstrate offer using the *Word of God* book. After introducing yourself you could say: "Many people today believe that the Bible is practical for our day but others do not. If the Bible is really the Word of God, then we would expect it to be the most practical book in the world, would we not? [Allow for response.] Psalm 119:105 shows the Bible to be God's guide for mankind. [Read.] The Bible does give us guiding principles for handling major and minor problems of life. [Refer to subheadings in Chap. 11 of book.] This publication discusses these principles and their benefits. We are offering this book along with these other two books [name them], which show the importance of God's Word in our lives." A different book might be featured if more practical locally.

Discuss Presenting the Good News with audience. Encourage use of *Bible Topics for Discussion* in the field. Explain how publishers can develop interest for return visits using method from Presenting the Good News. (May use example given or a subject that applies better locally.) Explain advantage for publisher to conclude original call by arousing interest for a question to be answered on the next visit.

20 min: "Personal Goals Are Helpful." Audience discussion. Have some prepared to comment on how they have used goals beneficially. Song 106 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 5

Theme: "Your Word Is a Lamp to My Foot." (Ps. 119:105)

25 min: Song 20. Announcements. Discussion led by Theocratic School overseer of next week's Bible reading (Judg. 13-16) and how to get the most out of it. Find examples of points in the Bible reading that require some extra research to understand, and demonstrate how this research can be done. May wish to have audience read a portion of material and thereafter questions can be raised to see if brothers really got the sense of it or not. The point should be made that weekly Bible reading is a rewarding experience and also a challenge if the material is to be fully understood. It can be done regularly by setting aside just a few minutes each day.

20 min: Could our family study be more of a Bible study? (This is just one of many ways in which a family may study together.) Arrange for family to read and discuss a chapter from the Bible dealing directly with a family situation. For example, Acts 5:1-11 on honesty, Daniel 3 on neutrality, Genesis 42-45 on forgiveness, 1 Kings 18 on faith in Jehovah's power, Acts 17:2-4, 16-34 on field service activity, and so forth. Each one, including children, can read a portion. A second portion might be acted out if time permits.

15 min: Scriptural discussion with congregation led by an elder on why Bible reading is an essential part of true worship and should take priority over other reading that we do. As time permits, discuss Matthew 4:4, Psalm 1, Joshua 1:1-8 and Deuteronomy 17:18-20. (Here you could give examples of kings who did and who did not follow this advice and the results. For example, Josiah in 2 Kings 22:3-13, as contrasted with Jehoiakim in Jeremiah 36.) Song 119 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 12

15 min: Song 114. Announcements. Accounts Report. Discussion of "International Convention Rooming Information."

25 min: Scriptural discussion with audience entitled, Our Destiny Is Not Fixed. Stress Romans 2:4-6, which shows that 'the kindly quality of God is trying to lead all to repentance,' something not possible if our destiny were fixed or predetermined. (Discussion based on *Aid* book material, "Foreknowledge, Foreordination," to be handled by an elder.)

The following questions are raised to be answered in Scriptural discussion. Try to apportion the time so that there will be some discussion of each question using only the most outstanding scripture or scriptures to do so. (1) How does Jehovah's kindly quality hold out wonderful prospects for all people? (Rom. 2:7, 10; 1 John 5:13, 20; Gen. 18:23-26; Neh. 9:31) (2) What factors should be considered to understand God's foreknowledge and whether one's destiny is predetermined? (*Aid*, p. 594, ¶11 to p. 595, ¶2; Isa. 48:3-7; Gen. 2:16, 17) (3) Why is it not reasonable to believe that Jehovah foreknew the rebellion of Satan, Adam and Eve? (*Aid*, p. 595, ¶7, 8; Gen. 6:5, 6; 18:20, 21; 22:11, 12) (4) How is the prospect of everlasting life presented in God's Word? (*Aid*, p. 596, ¶2-5; Matt. 7:7-11; 2 Pet. 3:9, 13) (5) Are persons in our territory foreknown to become either sheep or goats or does each one have a choice? (Deut. 30:19, 20; Rom. 2:4-11)

Chairman concludes, helping audience to reason on the following points: God's kindly quality, his genuine desire to see all persons gain salvation, should move us to serve him fully from the heart. It should move us to preach and teach with determination, knowing all others have genuine opportunity to "take life's water free." (Rev. 22:17) Even those entrenched in false religion, weighed down with wrong attitudes and practices, rather than being predestined to be goats, have opened to them the opportunity to benefit from God's kindly quality that is trying to lead them to repentance. Let us keep on preaching as Jehovah's kindly quality motivates us to do our best.

20 min: "Getting Ready for Memorial." A lively discussion of the importance of the Memorial. Explain the congregational arrangements for the Memorial and have a demonstration inviting an interested person to attend the Memorial and public talk. Song 47 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 19

Elders may decide if a Theocratic School and service meeting should be scheduled for this week in view of the Memorial.

15 min: Song 69. Announcements. Branch Letter. Discuss field activity of congregation.

20 min: Discussion of article in the March 1, 1978, *Watchtower*, "Memorializing Christ's Death—How Much Longer?"

25 min: This part may be arranged according to local needs. Elders may wish to have discussion of part of the Kingdom Ministry School textbook that would be of interest locally. Song 75 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MARCH 26

10 min: Song 93. Announcements.

25 min: Talk and audience discussion showing that communication with our brothers is important. Elder gives talk on following material and has audience discussion on questions listed.

(10 min:) As Jehovah's servants we recognize the need for clear and loving communication with one another. When communication between family members, relatives, fellow servants or friends is lacking, much anxiety is experienced. On the other hand, when we cultivate the fruitage of the spirit, we find communication much easier and life more enjoyable. Counsel of the Scriptures is that there should be no "class distinctions" among brothers. (Jas. 2:1-9) Do you give your brothers reason to shy away from approaching you? Have you separated yourself from some in the congregation? (Prov. 18:1) If you feel a lack of love in the congregation, do you yourself show love? If we find that we have difficulty communicating with others, is it not better to conduct a self-examination first, before placing the blame upon others? If, upon making such an examination we find that we are in any way lacking, what can we do to make improvement? One thing is to examine the Scriptures on the subject and frankly apply to ourselves the counsel that especially fits us. (Mark 11:25; Col. 3:13; Prov. 6:20-22; Rom. 14:19)

(15 min:) Draw out comments from audience on the following questions highlighting the theme that we should be willing to listen with an open mind to what our brothers have to say. In the same manner, we would like to have our brothers listen to us when we try to communicate with them. 1. How can our reactions to suggestions or points of counsel cause a lack of communication between brothers? What suggestions could be given to improve communication in these areas? (Jas. 1:19, 20; Eph. 4:26; Prov. 15:1, 2, 4) 2. How can the following scriptures help publishers improve communication with other members of the congregation when personality problems arise? (Prov. 17:9; Eccl. 7:8, 9; Matt. 7:12; 5:23, 24; 1 John 4:20, 21) 3. When elders are willing to accept suggestions from others in the congregation, how can this be mutually beneficial? (Prov. 15:31; Rom. 12:16; Ezek. 24:16a) 4. When fellow elders communicate freely regarding matters pertaining to physical and spiritual needs of the congregation, how does this keep the flock strong? (1 Cor. 12:25, 26; Ps. 146:7-9) Conclude with Romans 8:28.

25 min: "Enlarging Your Sacred Service."

(15 min:) Have a panel of publishers who are or have been auxiliary or regular pioneers discuss together the

(*Continued on page 3, col. 3*)

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Announcements

● The Society is arranging for a limited number of regular pioneers to serve temporarily as special pioneers in isolated territory for a two- or three-month period. There are about 35 assignments and each is organized for a team of two. The requirement will be 140 hours each month in field service. Some financial assistance will be provided. Before writing to the Society, arrangements should be made for a partner (give partner's name when writing) and the elders should sign the letter indicating that they believe the individuals would do well in this work. Please also specify whether or not you will be willing to work with a congregation that needs assistance in covering its territory. (No financial assistance is given for this.) Also, a car that is in good condition will be necessary.

● Portuguese-speaking publishers who are in a position to serve where the need is greater in the Portuguese-speaking areas of the northeastern United States, particularly in Massachusetts and in California, may write the Society for details and supply the information requested on pages 134 and 135 of the *Organization* book.

● In September, 1977, the Society mailed a year's supply of forms to all congregations. The increase in postal rates has made it very expensive for the Society to provide congregations with forms. Therefore, please use your remaining supplies judiciously. Publishers should be careful not to take more forms, such as the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription slips, than can be used properly in field service. Neither should forms be used for notepaper or any purpose other than intended by the Society. When two or more congregations share a counter where forms are provided for publishers' use, it would be proper to maintain a common stock for the use of all publishers. This new arrangement for supplying congregations with forms will prove beneficial to the Society and all congregations.

● Field overseers: Territory covered with the last tract should be reported as territory covered with literature.

● Literature offer for March: Three-book offer for 60c, including any two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book. The pocket-size book should be either *Did Man Get Here by Evolution or by Creation?*, *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good*, or *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?*

● Literature offer for April: *Watchtower* subscription (with any 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers) for $2.00; or subscriptions for both *Watchtower* and *Awake!* (with two 384- or 416-page books free to new subscribers) for $4.00. A half-year subscription with a pocket-size book may be offered for $1.25. If the subscription is not accepted, a pocket-size book along with two magazines may be offered for 45c.

● For consideration at elders' meeting: Can some help be given to any who have become inactive during last two years, or even those who have not reported two months out of the last six? What help do they need? Who might best give them assistance?

● NEW COST LIST: A new Cost List is being published and copies will be sent to all the congregations. Please take note that in this Cost List the congregation publisher subscription price for a one-year subscription is shown as $1.90. Some may wonder about this in view of the announcement that was made in the January, 1978, *Our Kingdom Service*. The price mentioned in *Our Kingdom Service*, $1.85, applies only for 1978 since a free book is being given with subscriptions in campaign months. In 1979 the rate will be $1.90 for each new subscription, as stated in the Cost List.

● New Publications Available:

Life Does Have a Purpose —Italian

A Secure Future—How You Can Find It —Kikongo, Kiluba, Lingala, Polish

Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood —Italian, Portuguese

● Available Again in U.S.A.:

The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Korean

● A revised Memorial outline is being sent to each congregation along with other material that is scheduled to be mailed out during February. Please see that this outline is made available to your assigned Memorial speaker.

International Convention Rooming Information

It is a pleasure to advise you that rooming departments in each 1978 international convention city are now open for handling room requests. The Society mailed out new Room Request forms to all congregations during February so that all who wish to write for rooms, whether hotel, motel or private home, may begin doing so. Elders should please discard all Room Request forms from previous years that may be left over at their Kingdom Halls, because the new form has been revised. A completely new system will be used in making rooming assignments.

You will note on the new forms that the congregation Secretary or the congregation's "Convention Coordinator" is required to check each form turned in for accuracy, neatness and so forth, and sign it, showing his approval, before sending it in to the convention Rooming Department for the convention requested. Therefore, anyone filling out a Room Request form should *not* mail it to the convention city himself, but should turn it in to the designated elder in the congregation to verify the request. The elder can then send it in to the convention city along with any other Room Request forms he may have for that same city, using the rooming address for that city that is printed on the back of each Room Request form. Each congregation's body of elders should determine immediately whether the Secretary or the "Convention Coordinator" will be used to verify the Room Request forms and then announce this to the congregation.

Rooming work for obtaining private home accommodations from publishers, interested ones and the public began in each convention city in February. Thus there will no doubt be enough rooms available for all who send in a Room Request form for whatever type of accommodations they desire, whether hotel, motel or private home. Those who choose to request private home accommodations should be prepared to pay a nominal amount for the accommodations, since the householder, whether a Witness or not, will be put to extra expense to care for such guests in the way of utilities, linens, and so forth. They should also have in mind that the householder is not required to provide food or transportation for such guests, nor is the householder required to let the guests stay in the rooms for more than the days of the assembly. It is up to the householder if he wishes to make any exceptions.

In most convention cities the Society, through the convention organization, already has reserved a number of hotel and motel rooms in order to obtain much lower rates than would have been available to individuals making their own arrangements. Therefore, it would be to your advantage in most cases to send in a Room Request form as outlined above to the Rooming Department in the city of your choice rather than obtaining the accommodations on your own.

This information will assist you in making your rooming arrangements in the near future. Other pertinent convention matters will be taken up in coming articles as convention time approaches.

Your Service Meetings (*Cont'd*)

highlights from the article in the November 15, 1977, *Watchtower*.

(10 min:) Talk about their plans for service in April. Demonstrate April subscription presentation. One on panel might do so, introducing himself by saying, "Most religious organizations teach that they have the truth. Since beliefs vary so much, how do you think we can identify which religion is teaching the truth of the Bible? [Allow for comment.] God wants his people to worship him in the true way. [Read John 4:23, 24.] There are many ways the true religion can be identified. One is found in John 13:35. [Read.] Do you think that it is important for us to find out which religion is the true one?" (Allow for comment.) Then lead into *The Watchtower* explaining that it has additional information. Offer subscription with free, large book as listed in January *Our Kingdom Service*. Chairman ends by encouraging auxiliary pioneering during April. Not too late to apply. Song 84 and prayer.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

God's Word—A Practical Guide for Our Time.—Psalm 119:105.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Using "Bible Topics for Discussion"

¹ "How comely are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!" (Rom. 10:15) These words of encouragement have spurred many Christians on to spread precious words of truth throughout the world. The new publication *Bible Topics for Discussion* can be a valuable aid to us in accomplishing this work.

² Two of the things that make a successful return visit are a sincere personal interest in the one being called on and an appealing Bible subject to discuss. There are many appealing subjects outlined in this new publication. If it is kept in one's Bible, it is readily available for use. Before making a return visit you could easily refer to it to gather some of the scriptures you could use on a chosen subject. Also, if a householder brings up an unexpected subject, it can be referred to by glancing at the list of subjects, which directs you to the proper page.

³ For example: If you place the book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* using Psalm 119:105 as a basis for the discussion, you may find it convenient to enlarge on the discussion by referring to scriptures from *Bible Topics for Discussion* under the heading on page three, "Bible," Topic "C," "Is a practical guide for our day."

⁴ To prepare the householder for the next visit you might want to conclude the discussion by saying: "So we have learned that the Bible *is* a practical guide for our day. One of the things this guide tells us is that, in the near future, all governments of men will be replaced by the rule of God's kingdom." (Then a scripture taken from *Bible Topics for Discussion* on page 16 under the subject "Kingdom," Topic "B," might be read, such as Matthew 6:9, 10; Daniel 2:44; or Revelation 21:2-4.) Then you can explain, "The next time I call I would like to discuss a little more with you as to just what this kingdom is and how it will affect each one of us." Now the householder's appetite is whetted for more information.

⁵ Then on the next visit you may wish to read or refer to the same scripture about the Kingdom again to refresh their memory and then continue with the discussion of that topic. Be sure to mark in your record which topic you have arranged to discuss with the person. Most have found that when using this method it is best to call back soon while the discussion is fresh in their mind. Toward the end of this call you might find it appropriate to offer a regular Bible discussion.

⁶ For calls on those who object to the use of Bible literature, such as the *Truth* book, in connection with a Bible study, the *Bible Topics for Discussion* can be very helpful. Since the booklet consists only of scripture references, likely the individual would not object to its use.

⁷ If you find it difficult to learn to use this method of teaching, why not ask someone who has had success in getting into discussions if you could go along with them and perhaps even take part in a return visit where this method is used. They may be able to give you some helpful suggestions.

⁸ With the goal of improving the quality of your teaching through Bible discussions, use *Bible Topics for Discussion* as an aid in reaching the hearts of the people in your territory.

Getting Ready for Memorial *(Cont'd)*

nesses are different from other religions.

⁵ Actions can speak even louder than words, so we will want to display Christ-like qualities at all times, but especially when dealing with the new ones. Our friendliness and warmth at the special public talk can make others feel the way one woman recently expressed it, "I have never gone to any religious meeting in my life where I felt so welcome." She went on to describe the thoughtfulness shown to her by "total strangers" and looked forward to attending other meetings.

⁶ Surely we will be busy during the Memorial season. But what joy we have to follow in the footsteps of our leader Christ Jesus, preaching and making disciples as he did. May we be strengthened to continue imitating in all our actions the same spirit of self-sacrifice and love that he showed for sheeplike ones.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	651	125.0	45.2	4.5	103.2
Pios.	13,811	82.1	32.0	3.1	75.0
Aux. Pios.	9,131	57.6	19.5	1.5	51.7
Pubs.	492,272	8.0	3.7	.4	9.8
TOTAL	515,865				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,738

Personal Goals Are Helpful *(Cont'd)*

community, then preparing some questions that will involve the householder, and finally getting ready to talk on the subject.

⁵ Personal goals can help us to get results on our return visits as well. The purpose of the return visit is to develop further the interest that has been manifest. What objective might we set in this regard? Trying to improve in using teaching questions and having effective Bible discussions will likely help make our return visits more effective.

⁶ You might try using goals to increase the amount of time you spend in the field service or perhaps to arrange your affairs so that you can auxiliary pioneer. Another fine goal would be to start a Bible study. To whatever extent you are able to serve Jehovah, if it is whole-souled service, then it will be acceptable to him.—Matt. 13:8, 9.

⁷ A point to consider, however, is that if personal goals are not reasonable, they can be most discouraging. (Jas. 3:17) Goals must be set according to what one is able to accomplish. Otherwise, we will likely end up in discouragement if we do not succeed. Everyone has a different makeup physically and emotionally. We cannot expect to be able to accomplish something just because someone else does, but we should set goals according to what we can do personally. But could you set as your goal improving your conversations and your use of the Bible when speaking to householders, or perhaps even when starting a Bible study?

⁸ Can you use goals to improve the quality of your service to Jehovah? What practical objectives can you set to make improvement in your service? Once you have made a decision to work to achieve something, be sure to keep it before Jehovah in your prayers, for what better help could a person have? A goal that is forgotten is not realized. So when you make a decision, keep it in mind and 'do just as you have resolved in your heart.'—2 Cor. 9:7.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *World Government* book:

March 5: Pages 98 to 107
March 12: Pages 108 to 115*
March 19: Pages 115 to 120
March 26: Pages 121 to 129, including ¶19

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* To subheading.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

APRIL 1978
Vol. 21, No. 4
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Over the years we here in the United States have enjoyed seeing thousands of new ones share in Kingdom preaching. Other lands continue seeing such growth. Already by November of 1977, Italy had a peak of 68,000 proclaimers of the "good news." In Japan a peak of over 43,000 publishers have reported, with publishers averaging more than 15 hours.

We want to aid as many more as possible during whatever time Jehovah yet permits. At the same time, we also have a deep concern "toward those [already] related to us in the faith." (Gal. 6:10) It is interesting to note that, in addition to the more than half a million publishers regularly sharing in the preaching work, about 100,000 others report service at least sometime during the year. Hence, many thousands who are not reporting service each month are still associating with us and still love the truth. Could it be that they are hesitant about talking extensively at the doors? They may lack confidence and thus need our help.

It is urgent that we all be alert to whatever needs our brothers may have and help them in any way we can. We want to assist all to strengthen their "hold on the real life." (1 Tim. 6:19) Jesus knew that what lies ahead will require all of us to have the strength that comes from being active, whole-souled in our service. Hence he urged us to 'pay attention to ourselves' and to "keep awake" that we 'may succeed in escaping the things that are destined to occur.'—Luke 10:25-28; 21:34-36.

Having taken up the service of God, may we never lose our zeal and confidence. Rather, may we demonstrate that we are "the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul."—Heb. 10:39.

Be assured of our warm love.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Do You Treat Them as Individuals?

1 How long has it been since you tried a fresh approach to householders in your territory? Even if we use the same presentation at each door, we are giving a witness, and that is important. But some publishers have learned to adjust what they say to fit the individual householder. They observe that, as a result, more people listen, and they personally find greater enjoyment in their field service.

2 Recently we wrote to a number of pioneers and circuit overseers and asked how they give a witness on an "individual" basis. We'd like to share some of their replies with you.

HOW TO GET THE DISCUSSION STARTED

3 The way that they introduce themselves varies. One sister says: "Hello! My name is . . . and I've stopped for just a minute to share a very encouraging thought with you." Another says: "I have a very interesting message to share with you concerning the Bible as a practical guide. It will take only five minutes." They know that before they can do much adapting of their presentation, they need to catch the householder's attention.

4 In some areas the brothers find that there is better response if, instead of mentioning God or the Bible in their opening statement, they briefly refer to some basic human desire or a problem that is on the minds of many persons. But a circuit overseer says that, when other approaches do not bring good results, he gets right to the point. Without any preliminary greeting and with his Bible in hand, he says: "I'm stopping by with this little gem from the Bible." Then he reads Psalm 119:105.

5 Most of these experienced brothers and sisters agree that being warm and having a friendly smile is important.

BE OBSERVANT

6 Of course, each householder is different. But how can you find out what the interests of the individual are?

7 A circuit overseer suggests being observant: "Is the householder elderly? Are there toys in the yard? Are there bumper signs on the car indicating their personal crusades —political, religious or environmental? Does a window sticker say they are a 'block parent'? Are they poor in worldly assets, or rich? Are there burglary devices on the door, or big guard dogs to safeguard possessions? Any of these things can give indication of what will be of special interest at that door." Don't make just passing mention of these things; tie your discussion back to them a number of times, the brothers recommend.

HOW TO GET ACQUAINTED

8 Even more important than observing *things* is taking note of the reaction of the individual, says an-

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

What Do You Do with Your Magazines?

1 Each time you receive a new issue of the *Watchtower* magazine, what do you do with it? Is your immediate reaction that of one who may be called a "caption reader," who merely flips through the magazine, noting the titles and other highlights? Or, are you a "picture reader," delighting in the illustrations? Or, are you a "special-interest reader," particularly attracted to some special features of the magazine, such as "Questions from Readers" or "Insight on the News"? Or, do you do something else?

2 Admittedly, each issue of *The Watchtower* stirs a certain measure of expectation, and it is most satisfying to thumb through its pages while it is still fresh. But now we are faced with the question—What then? What do you do with the magazine after that initial spark of interest is satisfied? Could it be that it is simply tucked into a drawer and forgotten? Or, do you, perhaps, carefully file it away so you will know exactly where it is when it comes time to prepare for the congregation *Watchtower* study, and so feel you have done your duty? Or, do you at least leave it out somewhere, figuring that you will give it more attention later, only to find that, somewhere along the line, it gets buried among other things and is out of sight?

3 Whether any of these examples are true of you or not, they certainly fit some of us, don't they? Perhaps it's not our intention to be so negligent, but with so much demand on our precious time each day, we may just feel that, after all, the "food at the proper time" is in the study articles and they will be covered at the congregation *Watchtower* study. As for the other articles, some may feel that many of them are merely a review of

(*Continued on page 7, col. 2*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING APRIL 2

7 min: Song 65. Announcements.

20 min: What Is Our Attitude Toward Preaching? Audience participation.

When Jesus witnessed to others, what was the message he emphasized? (Luke 8:1) What message did he foretell would be proclaimed during conclusion of present system? (Matt. 24:14) God's purpose has not changed; the message to be proclaimed has not changed. Ask audience: Why is it vital to the public that we keep on preaching the Kingdom message? Why is it important to our own spirituality that we not be indifferent about doing so? (Rev. 3:14-16) As shown in the Branch Letter (pars. 2, 3), who might really appreciate it if we invited them to go with us in field service? Not knowing the date when the "great tribulation" is to begin does not diminish the urgency. Do not forget Revelation 18:21, also Luke 21:34-36. Let's all be zealous in our service to God.

8 min: Our Topic and Literature Offer for April. Ask audience what the Topic for Conversation for April is.

Discuss details as to literature offer. Ask why it is beneficial to offer *Watchtower* subscription, what there is in the magazines that can help people with their problems, how this can give them hope.

25 min: "Do You Treat Them as Individuals?" Not actually studying article with congregation, but using ideas from it, conduct the following:

Demonstration: Publisher making house-to-house calls. (As indicated below, involve the audience.) Publisher greets householder, emphasizes badness of world and presents a prepared talk. (Use current Topic for Conversation.) After a minute or so, interrupt to ask audience for their impression. What would make opening remarks more positive, upbuilding?

Demonstration starts again, publisher says something that is more positive (see par. 3 of article), but makes no effort to involve the householder. Stop publisher again; commend. Ask audience what we know about the householder's interests. How could we find out? (Pars. 6-9)

Publisher tries again. Gets householder to comment; she mentions something about her own life. Before continuing, ask audience how they would fit discussion to householder. What would they show this person, to emphasize that the Bible is a practical guide?

Instead of demonstrating this aspect further, ask audience what they would point to in the Bible to show that it is a practical guide in other common situations. (For example: Crime, poverty, pollution.) List texts on a chalkboard. Add comments from paragraphs 11, 12.

Briefly show how subscription might be presented to the householder.

Encourage publishers to apply what has been discussed. Song 66 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 9

20 min: Song 111. Local announcements. Talk, with some audience participation, on article "What Do You Do with Your Magazines?" With first paragraph, encourage audience to relate what they actually have been doing with magazines, not necessarily what they should do; do not belittle. Then build appreciation for practical value of material in magazines. Encourage audience not only to read the magazines but realistically to consider suggestions given in paragraph 8. Introduce next part as example of how to apply these suggestions.

25 min: Lively discussion of article "Human Kindness Essential for Happiness," in February 15, 1978, *Watchtower*. Have a book study group familiar with entire article and prepared to offer comments from audience, not just prepared for preassigned questions.

Pars. 1-3: What human kindness is, and how experience cited illustrates it. Would you have acted differently, or what would you have done?

"Applied in Everyday Living": Ask wives: What "little things" do your husbands do that you particularly appreciate? Husbands: What kindnesses on the part of your family do you appreciate?

"In the Christian Congregation": How should we view the ones who have special needs? How can we help?

Section on "Benefits." Invite comments.

Ask: Have you enjoyed what we just did? Why not do it with family? Urge audience to read and use what is in the magazines.

15 min: Have audience name articles that they feel can fit particular persons on return visits, and explain why. (Could arrange one or two beforehand.) Arrange to have experiences related by individuals who are successful in using magazines in field service. Encourage all to read and make full use of magazines. Song 55 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 16

15 min: Song 96. How Important Is It to Follow Up?

A major part of our work is making disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Briefly interview some local publishers, ones who were aided because someone patiently called back on them.

Comment briefly on how many return visits congregation made last month. How many publishers have shared in making return visits during four out of the past six months? (Obtain figures from congregation records.) Is there need to give greater attention to this activity?

25 min: "Presenting the Good News—Making Return Visits." Use material in paragraphs 1, 2 for brief introduction.

Instead of simply studying paragraphs 3, 4, ask congregation: "How do *you* decide whether to make a return visit on a person? When might it be beneficial to call back on a person even if he did not accept literature? Has anyone actually done that? When do *you* set aside time in your schedule for making return visits? How much of your service time do you use in making return visits and conducting Bible studies?"

Instead of simply asking questions on paragraphs 5-7, demonstrate conclusion of a house-to-house call, showing how to apply one of the suggestions. Then ask the audience for further ideas as to (1) how to lay the groundwork for return visits, (2) what notes to make on their house-to-house record, (3) what preparation they make, and so forth.

Demonstrate paragraph 8. Ask audience for observations.

Raise problem: What if householder is too busy? Demonstrate suggestion in paragraph 9. Then ask audience what *they* recommend for any who are having difficulty in finding people at home when they call back.

Make this a spontaneous discussion, drawing on experiences of congregation. Use material in article as basis for the demonstrations and for your own additional comments.

20 min: Aid Persons with Whom We Already Have Some Contact.

Comment on local attendance at recent Memorial. Are they continuing to show interest in Jehovah's provision for life? Can we help them? Invite the audience to comment on the following:

Did a member of your family come, one who does not usually attend meetings? What can be done further to encourage such ones? (Why not invite one of the elders to call now, to get better acquainted, perhaps to offer a study, if that seems appropriate?)

How can we aid persons who attended, with whom studies are regularly conducted, but who have not continued to come to meetings? (Might arrange for the book study conductor to visit them, to commend them for progress, to encourage them to continue associating with the congregation.)

Were there some in attendance who used to be regularly associated, who were baptized, but who are not active now? How could we help them? (Might they need a study again to build them up spiritually? Offer the help.)

Let's plan this week to have some share in making return visits. Song 81 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 23

15 min: Song 61. Announcements, including local field service arrangements. Discussion with audience about importance of being at the convention this year, using some points from first section of assembly insert. Ask audience for suggestions on how to overcome obstacles to one's attending. (For example: Secular obligations, travel expenses, ill health, "I'll just go for the weekend.")

30 min: Elder discusses with audience insert section under "Praising Jehovah with Good Conduct." Read designated scriptures and any paragraphs that elders feel may apply locally. How should our conduct reflect on Jehovah's people? (1 Pet. 2:12) How has the type of conduct spoken of in Ephesians 5:3, 4, 18 brought reproach on us in some cases? (¶4) At assemblies what can happen when children are allowed to be on their own? (Prov. 29:15; ¶5) How can we avoid leaving a poor impression with innkeepers and homeowners? (¶6, 7) What responsibility do we all have in order to fulfill the principle of Proverbs 27:11? (¶8) How can we take the lead in "showing honor to one another" in the matter of saving seats? (Rom. 12:10; ¶9, 10) Apply Ecclesiastes 5:1 to our paying attention. (¶11)

15 min: Briefly consider points in insert from "Volunteer Service" to end. Have brothers from audience prepared to ask questions of one handling part: "What happened to the Volunteer Service forms?" (Briefly explain new arrangement and why.) "Will there be a cafeteria?" "Will we use those tear-off tickets to pay for food again?" "I always enjoy the orchestras. Will we have them again this year?" Summarize remaining headings with a sentence or two each, especially noting unusual Friday field service arrangement. Song 91 and prayer.

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"Victorious Faith" International Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

DOES that theme whet your spiritual appetite? Does it also stir up fond memories for many of you who have been privileged to attend previous international conventions? How faith-strengthening it will be to join with our brothers from other lands at one of the 24 large conventions arranged for the continental United States and Canada. You will be truly happy that you have put forth the effort to be there all five days for the bountiful Scriptural instruction and guidance in serving Jehovah faithfully in the days ahead.

Past international conventions have often had outstanding special features, and this one will be no exception! There will be no morning session on Friday. Instead, the morning will be devoted to a unique field service arrangement throughout the convention city. All are urged to share in this.

So, leave no stone unturned in your efforts personally to attend the 1978 "Victorious Faith" International Convention. You will reap rich rewards for doing so. The following information is being provided to assist you to benefit fully from the convention.

PRAISING JEHOVAH WITH GOOD CONDUCT: As in the case of those with opposing mates, the Bible shows that even opposers can be won to the truth without a word. How? By our good conduct of which they are eyewitnesses. (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1, 2) Many favorable reports result from the good conduct of Jehovah's people at conventions. Some have been so impressed by what takes place that they have embraced the truth. (1 Cor. 14:23-25) What an impelling reason for us to watch carefully what we say and do!—Phil. 2:1-4; John 13:35.

[2] One city mayor stated: "Yours was a most orderly session, and the delegates certainly brought a great deal of credit to themselves while they were here." Good manners and actions motivated by love also go a long way in enhancing the enjoyment of the convention for everyone in attendance. And, above all, such faithful conduct honors our loving heavenly Father, Jehovah, bringing his smile of approval upon us.—Prov. 27:11; Heb. 13:16.

[3] By far the majority of Jehovah's Witnesses at such large conventions have proved themselves to be fine Christians. Yet, sadly, in recent years a few disorderly ones have cast a poor reflection on the rest of Jehovah's people. Even though only a few engage in these things, the good name of all of God's people and of Jehovah himself is involved. Some of the matters that will now be mentioned may seem shocking to you, but we thought you would want to be aware of these problems so that, if possible, we all can help to avoid them in the future.

[4] A few of our brothers have had a tendency to become less careful in conduct when away from their home congregation. Often their lack of Christian restraint occurs away from the convention site, while associating after assembly sessions at motels and dormitories, eating establishments and other places. Some have even arranged to rent clubrooms and bands or go to discotheques in the evening. In some instances, a lack of self-control while engaging in worldly dancing has resulted in great reproach, even leading to immorality. Parties in motel and dormitory rooms have, on occasion, become boisterous and unruly to the extent that excessive drinking occurs and numerous liquor bottles and debris are left for maids to wonder about and clean up the next day. (Eph. 5:3, 4, 18) In one instance a brother called the management about a loud, boisterous, late party going on in the room next door. What would you have done when the management said, "They are Jehovah's Witnesses"?

[5] Reports also show that parents, at times, have allowed their children to stay alone at motor inns while they have gone out for periods of time; also, to use swimming pools unattended, even after closing time for the motel pool. Some parents have not intervened when their children ran, yelling and screaming throughout the motel, when they used elevators for play, sometimes resulting in serious damage, or when they set off fire alarms or threw rocks into pools and at cars in parking lots. Such conduct has been a real irritation to some worldly motel guests and managements, as well as our brothers staying

there. Is it wise or Scriptural to leave children, dedicated or not, on the loose either at the stadium or at our lodging places? Loving, responsible parents will keep their children with them and be companions to them, at all times knowing where they are and what they are doing. The resulting good conduct of our children can bring much praise to Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6-8, 25; 31:12; Prov. 29:15) One brother commented: "When we had evening sessions, publishers were too tired to party and the children usually went right to bed." Now there is opportunity to use the evenings to review the program with our families and to associate with some of our brothers in quiet, orderly Christian fellowship. Those who use the time in this way are spiritually upbuilt and have no regrets.—Ps. 133:1; Eph. 5:15-19; Phil. 4:8, 9.

[6] Sadly, reports show that there have been some cases of individuals who have been less than honest in obtaining rooms. As one innkeeper said, "Two people register, five occupy the room, plug in hot plates, and call the office for more towels." Innkeepers in at least six cities have reported that persons attending our assemblies have done this. Because of these bad examples, a few motel managers have even said that they do not want Jehovah's Witnesses back and would rather have anyone else stay there. What a sad contrast to the favorable expressions usually heard.

[7] We appreciate it very much when our brothers and others hospitably open their homes to visiting delegates for our conventions. Those of us who request such accommodations should remember that we are their guests and should act accordingly, not taking undue advantage of such Christian hospitality. Rooms listed in private homes do not include the use of the kitchen, or provision for animals. Also, those who request accommodations in private homes should never bring a disfellowshiped person with them. The convention will not assign any disfellowshiped person to a private home. Keep in mind, too, that such rooms listed at reasonable cost or free of charge are available only as an aid to attend the convention, and not to go to some vacation spot or tourist attraction in the area. If a person is going for such activities, it is only fair to others that he stay in a motel or hotel. Rooms listed in private homes will be available only during the convention and not for periods before or afterward for personal activities.

[8] Remember, Jehovah's Witnesses are not loved by the world. (John 15:18, 19) Our actions are therefore given extra scrutiny. Worldly people would like to have an excuse for pointing an accusing finger, but we want to work hard to turn their scrutiny to praise for Jehovah by keeping our conduct far above the standards of the world. (Prov. 27:11) Since any who travel or stay with us while attending a convention are identified by worldly people as Jehovah's Witnesses, what can be done to help these individuals to conduct themselves properly? *Every Christian, especially elders, parents and mates, should feel personally responsible to aid disorderly ones among us, dedicated or not, to change their conduct while with us by kindly helping them to act properly.* If elders or parents are not present and cannot be readily found, then any Christian present could calmly and kindly point out that our reputation and Jehovah's name are involved. By assisting everyone with us to appreciate this, no doubt we will regain our fine reputation in those areas where it has been damaged.—2 Cor. 1:12; 6:3, 4; 1 Tim. 3:7.

[9] A good opportunity to bring praise to Jehovah is right at the convention itself, by taking the lead in "showing honor to one another," treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Rom. 12:10; 13:8-10; Matt. 7:12) Such loving consideration of others can outstandingly be shown in the matter of saving seats. It has been observed that magazines or other items often have been placed on blocks of seats, sometimes extremely early in the morning. Some of these seats were never occupied during entire sessions, forcing others to stand. At other times seats are not available because some use them for storage purposes. Would it not be the Christian way to keep our things under our own seat, on our lap, or in the checkroom? Instead of thoughtless actions, why not rather bring honor to Jehovah by lovingly offering seats to elderly or infirm persons who need them?—1 Cor. 13:4-7.

[10] This year, in view of the above, convention attendants are being instructed to allow persons without seats to occupy any empty ones that are needlessly being saved. This will be 10 minutes before a session begins. Of course, a balanced view will help us to realize that at times it is necessary to save a seat or two for good reasons—family members who are volunteer workers, interested persons who will arrive soon, or a trip to the washroom. But if you need to meet someone, why not arrange ahead of time to meet at a cer-

tain time and place before or after the sessions so that you will not have to save seats for each other?

[11] When we realize that the stadium facility actually becomes a large Kingdom Hall for us, it should move us to show deep respect for Jehovah by being in our seats as family groups when each session begins and ends so that we can hear the entire program, including the prayers. Just as we, whether young or old, would not inconsiderately roam in the corridors at the Kingdom Hall or wander outside, talk to others, or leave in a mass exodus ahead of everyone else, we should not do so at a larger place of worship either. In this way we show respect for Jehovah's spiritual table.—1 Sam. 15:22, 23; Eccl. 5:1.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE: To share in serving your brothers at an assembly, it will no longer be required that each individual turn in an Application for Volunteer Service. In fact, none of these forms will be sent out to the congregations this year. Already the convention committees for each city are functioning and the various department heads have been selected. All these brothers, as well as individuals they have selected to work with them in their departments, have been busy asking various brothers in the congregations and circuit assembly organizations to share in the work with them. Of course, some larger departments such as Attendant, Food Service, Cleaning, Auditing, and so forth, will still need many more volunteers. This is where you will be able to contribute to the success of the convention when the convention organization gets in touch with your congregation. They will write to your congregation's Convention Coordinator, who is coordinating other convention matters for the congregation as well. He will be given a form for each department still needing volunteers, and will announce the need. Your name can then be listed on the form for the department you would like to work in for the entire convention. After processing these lists, the Volunteer Service Department in the convention city will send a form to the congregation's Convention Coordinator showing where and when those working in each department should report.

[2] Of course, for those who may be able to volunteer for only one time, such as when your congregation is asked to share briefly in cleaning a small section of the stadium after the afternoon sessions, your help will still be needed. The convention organizations this year, as in the past, will still be selecting congregations to share in this one-time work in several departments. So, you will be able to volunteer for this with your family and others in your congregation, even though you are unable to work all five days. In order to arrange for this, the convention organization in your convention city will advise your congregation of the need and have your elders select a capable captain for the group who will work along with you in caring for the assignment. The Convention Coordinator will receive the necessary correspondence in plenty of time to work out the details.

[3] It is hoped that this new arrangement will make it easier for you to volunteer and to find out well ahead of time what you will be doing and where to report for work. Of course, even if you are not able to volunteer ahead of time, if you are able to help, please just go to the Volunteer Service desk at the convention and they will let you know where help is needed and guide you to that department. Truly, there is much pleasure in lovingly serving your Christian brothers as you volunteer individually or as family groups, with even younger ones working along with their parents or older members of the family. —Acts 20:35; Ps. 110:3.

FOOD SERVICE: In view of the changing lifestyles and eating habits in this country over the past few years, as well as the change to daytime sessions at conventions, much thought has been given to just what is necessary in the way of physical food in order to care for the needs of those in attendance. Especially has consideration been given to what might be done for the thousands of faithful, hardworking volunteers who, over the years, have devoted their time preparing necessary physical food so that the rest in attendance could enjoy the bountiful spiritual food. In the past such dear ones have often had to work so many hours that they themselves have heard very little or none of the program.

[2] After considering all these factors, the Society has decided to simplify the entire food service operation so that nearly everyone, including those working in the Food Service Department, will be able to hear and benefit from the spiritual program. Hence, instead of serving a cafeteria meal at any convention in this country, there will be a fine tasty menu served out of conveniently

located refreshment stands. Hot items such as chicken, fish, hamburgers, hot dogs and coffee, and cold items, including large sandwiches, fruit bags, Danish pastry, potato chips, chocolate and vanilla pudding, orange juice, soft drinks, milk, and so forth, will be available. There will be plenty to eat and it can be easily obtained throughout the stadium so that, if you wish, one or two members of the family can obtain all the hot or cold food needed and bring it back in a bag. This type of menu prepared with modern mobile kitchen equipment owned by the Society will make it possible for the vast majority of food service volunteers to hear the spiritual program as well as serve the physical needs of their brothers.

CONVENTION TICKETS: For a number of years now at our conventions, $1.00 tickets in 10c segments have been successfully used for purchasing food at the conventions. In many ways, including safety of funds, sanitary benefits when handling food, and speed, since no change-making is required, this system has proved much more acceptable than using money. In order to use these tickets to the best advantage, it would be appreciated if, to the extent possible, you would comply with the request to order a supply of tickets ahead of time for the first two or three days of the convention. This will help to eliminate crowds waiting in long lines at the cashiers on the first day. Then you can go later at your leisure to obtain more tickets as needed.

[2] Since each ticket is printed to show it is worth 10c, all the menus at the conventions will show how many tickets are required to purchase each item, rather than showing a price. This should speed things up considerably and increase accuracy. Your cooperation in using the tickets will be appreciated and contribute to the smooth operation of the convention feeding program.

MUSIC: Special music for the interludes and for audience singing is being prepared by the Society with the aid of many brothers throughout the country who are talented musicians. This means that there will be no live orchestras this year, but the specially prepared music will be presented by tape to give real unity to this important feature of the program at all the international conventions.

May Jehovah truly bless your efforts to finalize your arrangements to be in attendance at the "Victorious Faith" International Convention along with your brothers.—Heb. 10:24, 25; Rom. 1:11, 12.

International Convention Reminders

ROOMING: Any desiring rooms who have not as yet sent in a Room Request form should fill one out neatly and accurately and turn it in to the congregation Secretary or the Convention Coordinator. He will carefully check it over, sign and mail it to the rooming address noted on the back of the form for the convention city where you will attend. If you receive a rooming assignment and later have to change your plans, please immediately advise (1) the landlord and (2) the convention Rooming Department so the room may be reassigned.

There will be no trailer camps at the U.S. conventions, but the Rooming Department for each convention will gladly furnish available information on any commercial facilities.

FIELD SERVICE: Why not begin planning now to have a joyful share in the outstanding special field service morning that is being arranged for Friday at each convention city? You will be blessed by engaging in this activity, distributing literature, some of which is being printed especially for this occasion. A very simple presentation will be used, so even young ones and new publishers will find it easy and enjoyable. More information on this stimulating activity will be published in *Our Kingdom Service* for May.

BAPTISM: At most locations, the immersion will be on Saturday. Those who wish to symbolize their dedication by water baptism should review the 80 questions and also chapter six in the *Organization* book with the elders prior to the convention. Bathing suits and towels should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized.

PROGRAM TIMES: Plan to enjoy the entire program, which will begin Wednesday and Thursday mornings by 10:00 and will conclude at approximately 6:00 p.m. Of course, on Friday the entire morning will be set aside for the special field service campaign mentioned earlier. Thus, the actual program at the stadium will begin on Friday afternoon at 2:00. On Saturday and Sunday the program will begin by 9:15 a.m., and it will conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. We encourage you to arrange your schedule so you do not have to leave the convention prior to the conclusion at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

PIONEER IDENTIFICATION: This year, instead of sending a special Convention Pioneer Identification card to each *regular* pioneer, as in the past, we are asking all *regular* pioneers to bring to the convention their current Pioneer Identification and Assignment card that was issued when they were appointed as regular pioneers. You may present this card to the proper cashier on the first day of the convention and receive $15.00 worth of convention tickets for obtaining food. The cashier will simply date stamp the back of your Pioneer Identification and Assignment card to show that you received the tickets. If a free copy of any literature release item is available to pioneers, you may go to the bookroom and someone there will simply write the number of that release in ink on the back of your card to show that you have received your free copy. Treat the card as carefully as cash. It cannot be replaced at the convention. All those in special full-time service (traveling, Bethel and special pioneers) will continue to receive the Convention Pioneer Identification card as in the past.

LAPEL CARDS: No doubt all will enjoy wearing the cards as a means to advertise the convention and to get acquainted with other brothers and sisters in attendance. Congregation Secretaries, please have the international convention lapel cards and holders ordered on the Literature Order Blank starting April 15. The lapel cards are 1c each and the celluloid holders are 5c each.

A WORD OF CAUTION: Regardless of the convention you attend, you should lock your car at ALL times and NEVER leave anything showing in a parked car. Keep your belongings locked inside the trunk if possible. Also, beware of pickpockets. They often mingle in large crowds. For the same reason, do not leave anything of value unattended on seats at the convention.

Treat Them as Individuals *(Cont'd)*

other Witness. At one door, as soon as she mentioned God, she observed that tears came to the eyes of the woman. Instead of going on, she asked, 'Is there some problem?' Indeed, there was. The woman's son had been murdered two weeks ago, and she just could not understand why God had permitted it to happen. The publisher was able to help her—a little bit that day, more later.

9 A pioneer who has been in full-time service since the early '40's frequently learns quite a bit about the persons to whom she talks, and she makes good use of it to help them. How does she do it? She writes: "From door to door I very often use this: 'Hello! I'm so glad to find you at home, because we are neighbors. [Here I tell them where I live in the city, as I think this is important, since most people in the city don't know others and are very apprehensive.] We both are concerned with the well-being of our families, isn't that so? How's everybody at your house? [Here I learn of illnesses, problems, and if they're alone.] Isn't it too bad that more people don't care what happens to others these days? [I often insert some recent specific local case.] What do you think the problem is?'" If they will talk, she listens.

USING THE BIBLE

10 But now we want to direct the discussion toward the Bible. How? Well, this pioneer says that, when the householder's comments bring certain problems to light, she asks: "Do you think God expects us to look to him to straighten things out, or is it just up to us?" Even if the response is negative, it is not hard to say: "That's how many people feel, but I read something here in the Bible that would interest you." Now, which scripture are you going to use?

11 Well, which promises in the Bible are especially precious to you? Share one of these with the householder. If you have difficulty in remembering where they are, then write down a few choice ones. Don't worry that perhaps you won't know what to say. Trust in Jesus' promise that the holy spirit 'will bring back to your mind' the things that you have learned from him. (John 14:26) Simply be willing to share these things. Do it in the kind and loving manner that was characteristic of Jesus, and those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life" will listen.—Acts 13:48.

12 You know that not everyone is going to listen. Not everyone listened to Jesus. So don't feel that you have failed when the householder cuts you short. Instead, thank Jehovah for the privilege of speaking in his name. Now, try another home.

13 The brothers find that once the householder sees that the Bible really does deal with his own problems in life, he often is grateful for literature that will help him to learn more. During April we are going to be offering the *Watchtower* subscription, along with one of the 384- or 416-page books, for $2.00. And we know that during the year they will get a lot of excellent information that shows what the Bible says about situations of many kinds: marriage, raising children, coping with economic pressure and discouragement, the lasting solution to health problems, and much more. It can really help the individual to appreciate how the Bible can be a light in his own life.

14 Never forget, the householder is an individual. Get acquainted. Then use what you have learned to help him.

15 Did you get some helpful ideas from what these brothers and sisters in full-time service do? Then review them before you go out in the field service during the coming weeks. May it add much to your finding joy in aiding others as you serve Jehovah.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	636	127.3	47.9	4.5	91.0
Pios.	14,027	78.7	32.0	3.0	64.5
Aux. Pios.	9,005	57.0	20.2	1.6	46.0
Pubs.	467,331	7.3	3.6	.4	7.9
TOTAL	490,999				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,342

Your Magazines *(Cont'd)*

material already quite familiar to those of us who have been in the truth for some time. So, we are not missing that much, are we?

4 Well, perhaps we are missing more than we realize. How is that? Not everything in those shorter articles is simply review. Some of it is quite new. Sometimes there are comments on Scripture texts that may not have been discussed in the Society's publications for thirty or more years. We may also find a fresh approach to a familiar topic, or details that are expressed with a clarity that enables us personally to get a real grasp of the subject for the first time. All of this will be missed if we do not read those articles, won't it?

5 But, what if some of us do find that the article is simply a review? Why should we spend the time on it? Because that is the way we feed our hearts. (2 Pet. 1:12, 13) It is not by always seeking something new but by reviewing and meditating on what we already know that we build up our appreciation for the truth. And this is what keeps us in the way of the truth.

6 Furthermore, such articles often help us in a practical way. For example, "Are You Prepared to Talk on the Bible?" in the November 1, 1977, issue has helped some to overcome the tendency to shy away from talking about the Bible to persons with special backgrounds. How about something for the family? If you feel you can use some practical suggestions on how to strengthen family ties, the article "Helpful Suggestions for Maintaining the Family Circle" in the February 1, 1978, issue may be the answer.

7 Of course, the fact is that not all of us are going to get everything in the magazines read. Not all of us read at the same pace, and not all of us have the same amount of time for personal study. But, let's be sure that if we are not covering it all, it is not because of lack of concern or because worldly reading material or entertainment is more appealing to us.

8 Looking ahead, what practical application can we have in mind so we will read such material with the proper objective, rather than just out of a sense of obligation? Many of these articles can be excellent material for our family study. Too, the information we gain from such articles can become interesting topics for upbuilding conversations with fellow Christians. Our being personally acquainted with the magazines surely will build up our enthusiasm for recommending them to others in the field. Indeed, by our making it a point to read and apply such material regularly, meditating and pondering over it, our lives will be enriched immensely and our advancement will be manifest, to the benefit of ourselves and others. —1 Tim. 4:15, 16.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *World Government* book:

April 2:	Pages 129 to 139*
April 9:	Pages 139 to 147
April 16:	Pages 148 to 159
April 23:	Pages 160 to 166
April 30:	Pages 167 to 174

* To subheading.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

God's Word—A Practical Guide for Our Time.

1. Read Psalm 119:105, commenting on need for such a "light."
2. Use a specific example of practical Bible counsel; if possible, fit it to what specially interests the householder.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Making Return Visits

[1] An important part of the work that Jesus assigned to his followers was to make disciples. Not only did he say that "this good news of the kingdom will be preached," but he also commanded: "Make disciples . . . teaching them." (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Are you sharing in this aspect of the Lord's service? Would you like some suggestions on how to go about it?

[2] The key to disciple-making is to spend time discussing the truth with people. The Bible reports that, on one occasion, Jesus invited two interested persons to his lodging at about 4 o'clock and spent the rest of that day with them. (John 1:39) Thereafter they traveled with him, being taught by him for a number of months before they were next back at their fishing business. (See *Aid* book, chart on page 928.) Soon they were very active proclaimers of the good news. In Ephesus, the apostle Paul made provision so that those who wanted to learn could spend time with him every day, if they so desired, to build up their knowledge of the truth. (Acts 19:9, 10) A fine congregation was formed there. We, too, will get results if we arrange to spend time with interested ones on a regular basis.

[3] But you might say that you don't have any return visits to make. Perhaps you do. A return visit on anyone who takes literature is usually appropriate. Also, a brother in California makes this interesting comment: "This month I have made arrangements on the initial call to come back and speak to 26 persons. What's interesting to me is that 22 of them did not accept any literature! However, they were willing to express a view on a scripture I wrote down for them to look up in their Bible." Why not try it?

[4] In the case of publishers who do not make many return visits, they usually do not have a regular time for this activity. Do you? Instead of always covering more territory, *it can be very fruitful to spend up to half of your witnessing time calling back on persons that you met before*. Give priority to those who showed the most interest, but, as time permits, also call on those who showed just a little interest. You may do this on the same day that you go from house to house, or, on occasion, you may want to spend the full period of field service to make return visits. Do not neglect them.

[5] When you meet an interested person, possibly in the house-to-house work, it is a good idea to lay the groundwork for your return visit. How? One of the most effective ways is by using a definite question. If the householder asks one, why not use that, promising to do some additional research and go over it with him on your next visit?

[6] But perhaps the householder does not ask a question. Then what? You do it. A longtime pioneer in Alabama gets excellent results from asking questions himself. On his first call he may have been discussing the theme "Is This the World's Last Generation?" When that has been answered, he says: "If this generation will see the world's end, that raises some interesting questions: What will be on the other side of the end of the world? Will the ground be left? Will any humans live through this destruction?" In a letter this brother remarked: "At this point I end the discussion, with the householder hungry for the answer. So successful has this method been that some people have had us come back three or four times a week; others have prevented us from leaving the house until we gave the answer, one man even locking the door."

[7] Before you make your return call, prepare. Have a few scriptures in mind, but not the identical ones that you used on your first call. Don't lay the foundation again; build on it. You can get good ideas from *Bible Topics for Discussion*. Be sure to pray for Jehovah's spirit and for him to open wide the heart of the householder.—Acts 16:14.

[8] You don't have to figure out in advance every point you are going to cover; but it does help to know how you are going to get started. Have in mind (1) the householder's name, (2) what you talked about last time, and (3) what scriptures you could use to cultivate further interest on a topic that appealed to the person. After greeting the person by name, you might say: "I've been thinking about you since we had that enjoyable conversation on the Bible last week and I hope you'll have a few minutes so I can share what I've been reading about. [Mention the previously asked question or whatever topic you plan to use.] May I come in?"

[9] If they say they are too busy, use discernment. You might reply: "I understand." But then ask: "Could I have just one minute to share a thought before I go?" Most persons will agree. Then read one of the scriptures that you had in mind and comment on it. Keep it brief. Let them know that you had some other points to share, and arrange to call again. Often a number of brief calls are needed before the householder's spiritual appetite begins to grow. Be patient.

[10] In many areas the big problem is to find people at home. Don't give up. Lives are at stake. Try the telephone. Write a letter. Leave a recent magazine in the door, perhaps with a personal note drawing attention to an article that you think will especially interest the householder. Sometimes after months of repeated efforts, fine studies have been started. Keep in mind that our work is not done when we have gone from door to door. Our commission is also to "make disciples . . . teaching them."

Announcements

- At congregation book studies late in May we will begin to use the book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* Study question booklets for this book are now available and may be ordered by congregations for 5c each. Also, if some publishers do not have a personal copy of the book, you may need to order some of these.
- Literature offer for April: *Watchtower* subscription (with any 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers) for $2.00; or subscriptions for both *Watchtower* and *Awake!* (with two 384- or 416-page books free to new subscribers) for $4.00. A half-year subscription with a pocket-size book may be offered for $1.25. If the subscription is not accepted, a pocket-size book along with two magazines may be offered for 45c. For each subscription to a semimonthly edition of the magazines, publishers will submit $1.85; pioneers, $1.00. (Regarding how congregations request credit on the larger books, see page 2 of *Our Kingdom Service* for January.)
- Offer for May: The entire month will be devoted to tract distribution. This tract complements the book *Life Does Have a Purpose*, and the book may be offered where interest is shown. The tract may also be placed with people when magazines are being offered.
- Congregations may now order a supply of the booklet *Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood*. We will not have any further special campaign with the booklet, but it would be good for publishers to have copies in their book bags in the event that they meet persons who raise questions on this subject.
- If the Secretary moves from the congregation, or must be replaced for some other reason, the body of elders should meet as soon as possible and determine which elder should be recommended to the Society to replace him. Please provide his full name and address, the name and address of the previous Secretary, and the congregation name and number. Please also provide this same information for the PERMANENT SHIPPING ADDRESS. If this is the same as the Secretary's name and address, please so state. If the circuit overseer will visit within a couple of weeks, you could wait for this if you desire.

OUR
KINGDOM
SERVICE

MAY 1978
Vol. 21, No. 5
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

In February of this year, thought-provoking information on pioneering appeared in *Our Kingdom Service*. Since then, have you considered sharing in this activity? Have any in your family expressed the desire to pioneer? It certainly is a fine thing to think seriously about the possibility of enlarging our share in the vital work of proclaiming the "good news" and making disciples. What a grand way this is to express our love for Jehovah God and our fellowmen!

Although pioneering may require making adjustments in one's daily life, and it certainly calls for hard work, many who are engaging in this service have experienced rich blessings. For example, a brother with a business was able to work out a program that enabled him to auxiliary pioneer for six out of the last twelve months. What were the results? He enjoyed conducting as many as seven Bible studies.

Though it has not been easy with a full work load, even some members of Bethel families have been able to arrange to be auxiliary pioneers. In the Philippines, 16 members of the Bethel family were able to pioneer in one month and enjoyed conducting 41 Bible studies. Also we have heard fine experiences from members of the Brooklyn Bethel family who have shared in the auxiliary pioneer work. One brother told of placing hundreds of magazines. How did he do it? He took advantage of every opportunity to speak about the truth —at bus stops and in other places where small groups were gathered.

We hope that you, too, will continue to think about how you might increase your share in declaring the "good news." May Jehovah's rich blessing attend your efforts to be whole-souled in your sacred service. Be assured of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Do You Appreciate Your Possession?

1 Are you enjoying your possession now? Is it the same possession that brought delight to God's faithful servant David? Regarding it, David wrote: "Jehovah is the portion of my allotted share and of my cup. . . . The measuring lines themselves have fallen for me in pleasant places. Really, my own possession has proved agreeable to me."—Ps. 16:5, 6.

2 Note that David found his "allotted share" in the Most High God. His treasured possession was having an approved relationship with Jehovah and being able to serve him. To him, that allotted portion was most pleasant. Unlike faithless "men of this system of things," David did not center his life around material things. What really counted with him was being ever aware of Jehovah's presence. On awakening in the morning, he would focus his thoughts on the Most High God. David was satisfied in knowing that Jehovah was always with him, ready to come to his aid.—Ps. 17:14, 15.

DOES JEHOVAH'S SERVICE COME FIRST?

3 What about us today? Do we, like David, view our relationship to Jehovah and our service to him as one of our best possessions? Is this reflected in our being busy in fine works, including Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making? Or, are we being sidetracked by the daily cares of life, entertainment, some hobby or other interest? When there is a choice between pursuing either a personal desire or sharing in field service, helping with Kingdom Hall cleaning, visiting a sick member of the congregation, or the like, what do you do? Does personal desire often win out? Do you have time to watch your favorite television program or to read a novel, but just do not get around to reading the Bible or Bible-based publications? Do you spend hours in pursuing bodily training or recreation on a Saturday afternoon but find that there is no time for field service in the morning because other things have to be done? Or, do you willingly adjust your schedule of activities in such a way that after other essentials are cared for, the major part of the time remaining can be devoted to helping people inside and outside the congregation?

4 One vital way in which we can aid persons outside the congregation is by sharing in the work of

(*Continued on page 8, col. 2*)

Helping Widows and Orphans

1 One of the requirements of true worship is "to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation." (Jas. 1:27) In the many congregations of Jehovah's people there are literal widows and orphans who are in need of loving attention such as is encouraged by the disciple James. But there are also others in the congregations who are in need of loving consideration and help.

2 The problems faced by these persons differ considerably. Some widows may have to work secularly while at the same time caring for a home and providing help and guidance to their children. The resulting schedule may be so demanding that it leaves these sisters totally exhausted in the evening. Other widows may be advanced in age and may be facing serious health and financial problems. Still others, though enjoying comparatively good health and financial security, may find that they are lonely and depressed. Sisters with unbelieving mates may experience discouragement because of being unable to have spiritual fellowship with their husbands. Nevertheless, they should endeavor to win their husbands by godly conduct. (1 Pet. 3:1, 2) As for orphaned children, many keenly sense the absence of a parent. Especially teen-age boys may have difficulty discussing personal problems with their mother. In cases where the father is an unbeliever, children may be given unscriptural advice, face ridicule and perhaps even mistreatment, but they should render due obedience.—Eph. 6:1-3.

HOW WE CAN HELP THEM

3 Clearly, orphans and widows, among others in our midst, especially need encouragement and upbuilding. For any of us to be a source of encouragement or help to all these needy ones, we need to know what their situation is. Since they do not openly discuss their problems and inmost feelings with the entire congregation, how might we determine what aid and encouragement would be appreciated? This usually cannot be done by asking directly: "Is there anything I can do for you? Do you need anything?" Nevertheless, we

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING APRIL 30

25 min: Song 60. Announcements. Direct attention of publishers to announcement in *Our Kingdom Service* about not leaving tracts in mailboxes. Discussion on "Do You Appreciate Your Possession?" Have a brief introduction based on paragraphs 1 and 2 making clear the application of Psalms 16:5, 6 and 17:14, 15. Then have paragraph 3 read, and ask: Why is it good to think about the questions raised here? (There is no need to discuss each question, and it should be kept in mind that, in their place, the activities mentioned are not wrong.) After reading paragraphs 4 and 5, ask: Why is it important to give personal attention to our field activity? Conclude by warmly encouraging brothers to take delight in Jehovah's service.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News —With Tract No. 25." Review with audience material in paragraphs 1 and 2. Then present a well-prepared demonstration covering circumstances outlined in paragraph 4, using the introduction mentioned in paragraph 3. Following this demonstration, have another presentation using material covered in paragraph 5, showing how a Bible study can be started by using chapter 3 in the *Life* book. (Also mention leaving tracts when someone is not at home. Encourage publishers to make sure that tracts are not readily visible to passersby. If congregation has territories that have not been worked recently, inform audience of arrangements made to cover them with Tract No. 25.)

15 min: Branch Letter. Use material to encourage as many as possible to auxiliary pioneer during May or in the coming summer months. Song 68 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 7

20 min: Song 31 and local announcements. Question-and-answer discussion on "Cultivate a Longing for Spiritual Food." Review with audience the application of the scriptures quoted.

10 min: Talk on article, "Why Meditate?" in March 15, 1977, *Watchtower*, pp. 165, 166.

30 min: Getting the Most from Bible Reading. Briefly mention that Bible reading is a necessity for us and should benefit us personally. It is not a matter of reading for the sake of reading. When we read the Bible, we are reading *God's Word*. Encourage audience to follow along as an elder or a ministerial servant reads Matthew 5:1-16. (Do not spend much time in the introduction, but start right away with the Bible reading suggested. Make sure you give an equal amount of time to each question. You may find it helpful to assign certain publishers to prepare for this part by reviewing the *Watchtower* articles dealing with the Sermon on the Mount.) After reading the first five verses, ask the following: Why does happiness result from being conscious of our spiritual need? How are we comforted when we mourn? Why does this make us happy? Why will the mild-tempered ones inherit the earth? Read verses 6-8, and ask: What is involved in hungering and thirsting? How are we going to be filled and happy? How can we show that we are merciful? Why would our being shown mercy make us happy? How can we be pure in heart? In what sense can we see God? Read verses 9-12, and ask: How can we be peaceable? Why would being called 'sons of God' result in happiness? Why could we be happy when being persecuted? Conclude by reading verses 13-16, and ask: In what way are we the salt of the earth? In what way are we a light in the world? In what way might one's light be hidden? Inform audience that further information on the above can be found in the February and March 1978 issues of *The Watchtower*. Encourage all to read the articles dealing with the Sermon on the Mount and to meditate on the information. We should be sure to take advantage of our opportunities to study and to read God's Word with a view to knowing Jehovah better. Song 100 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 14

10 min: Song 8 and announcements.

15 min: Talk on "1978 Conventioners in Action!" insert, from "Christian Witnesses Live Up to Their Name" to "People Meet People."

15 min: Question-and-answer discussion of insert, from subheading "Presentableness" to "Maintaining Good Order." Please read the material under "Presentableness." Then ask: What do we learn from Jesus and the angels as to their presentableness before Jehovah during their assemblies? How can we imitate their example? Read paragraphs under "Cleanliness and Uprightness," and then ask: In harmony with 1 Peter 1:16, what responsibility does each one of us have at assemblies? Conclude this portion by reading paragraphs under "Maintaining Good Order." Ask audience: What responsibility do children have at assemblies? In harmony with 1 Corinthians 10:31, how should we conduct ourselves where we are accommodated? Why is this important? Why should we exercise care in the use of alcoholic beverages? What should be done if there is improper conduct on the part of any of the brothers?

20 min: Field overseer outlines local arrangements for special witnessing at the assembly that most publishers will be attending. Where brothers are accommodated at the same place or nearby, car or bus groups may be organized in advance before leaving to attend the assembly. Small groups might arrange for a convenient meeting place and then quickly proceed into the field. A group of pioneers and publishers enthusiastically discuss material from "Will You Be One of the 'Locust' Band in Action?" and "Campaign Plans." Song 89 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 21

"Look After Orphans and Widows."

20 min: Song 108 and local announcements. Review concern of Jehovah and Jesus Christ for widows, as shown in Isaiah 1:17, 23; 10:1, 2; Jeremiah 22:3; Ezekiel 22:7; Zechariah 7:9, 10; Malachi 3:5; Luke 20:46, 47.

20 min: "Helping Widows and Orphans." Question-and-answer discussion. Highlight what all in the congregation can do in this regard.

20 min: First interview one or two sisters who are widows, and then one or two young brothers or sisters without a father or a mother. Let them tell of the joys they have in working with others in the field service, and how helping others spiritually has made it easier for them to cope with their own problems. Conclude by having various ones in the audience relate what they have noted to be especially helpful in encouraging individuals in local territory and those who are unbelievers in their immediate family. Song 85 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 28

15 min: Song 103 and local announcements. If any tracts remain from May, publishers may continue to use them in June to start conversations with people. If many tracts are still available, it may be advisable simply to hand them out without attempting to start conversations. Comment on Acts 4:20, highlighting the fact that we share with people what we have heard and seen. No reason to hold back from preaching because we do not know much about the Bible. All of us know something, have heard Scriptural truths and have personally experienced Jehovah's help and the benefits of applying his Word.

15 min: What Could We Say? Invite audience to cite scriptures that could be used in giving a witness in the following situations: (1) A loved one dies. (2) Neighbor complains about unruliness of children in the neighborhood. (3) A fellow worker comments about the high cost of living. (4) A neighbor mentions health problems and the expenses incurred. (If possible, texts could be written on a blackboard.) As scriptures are cited, could ask for gist of text and how the points made in the Bible could be used. Comment on many opportunities that we have for using these scriptures in the field service and at other times.

30 min: To be prepared locally. Include discussion of local plans and arrangements for all in the congregation to have some share in presenting the offer for June. Encourage schoolchildren who will be out for their summer vacation to participate. Song 77 and prayer.

Question Box

● How can the school overseer arrange to give private counsel after the meeting to those who have assignments in the Theocratic School?

Good cooperation of all with the school overseer will often permit his seeing most, if not all, of the four students without undue delay, right after the meeting. (It would not be necessary for the one giving the instruction talk to be present. If something needs to be brought to his attention, the school overseer can see him later.) All should understand that this is part of the instruction of the Theocratic School. We encourage all to seek out the school overseer right after the meeting. This will assist him in being of the greatest help to each one.

Occasionally, the school overseer can give brief reminders from the platform that students should see him after the meeting to pick up their counsel slips and to talk over the points on which they are working. Students who are on the program should arrive well before the meeting begins. It is suggested that rehearsals be completed at another time, before the meeting begins. If all remember to give their counsel slips and assignment slips to the school overseer before the meeting, this will provide opportunity for him to remind each one to see him after the meeting.

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1978 CONVENTIONERS IN ACTION!

CHRISTIAN WITNESSES LIVE UP TO THEIR NAME

Will You Be There To Share Unforgettable Theocratic Experiences?

The time for the 1978 "Victorious Faith" International Conventions fast approaches. Months of planning have gone into preparations to care for more than a million attenders at over 100 convention cities on the six continents of the earth. These gatherings will be held in some of the world's largest stadiums, including olympic stadiums. The scheduled assemblies of Jehovah's Christian witnesses, people of the one true Victorious Faith, promise to be no ordinary chain of events.

It is believed that this interlinking of people from over 200 lands will go down in modern theocratic history as another Christian milestone. Perhaps you, your parents or even your grandparents remember attending some of the previous outstanding conventions, such as in 1941 at St. Louis, 1950 and 1958 at Yankee Stadium, New York, 1951 at the London Wembley Stadium, and 1955 at Nuremberg, Germany, to mention a few. While it took much time, expense and inconvenience to travel from one end of the earth to the other to meet with Jehovah's internationally gathered people in those days, Jehovah's blessings were there for them in abundance, truly unforgettable and rewarding.

BIBLICAL PATTERN FOR ACTIVE CONVENTIONERS

The sizes of our modern conventions, even including the 253,000 assembled in New York in 1958, are dwarfed by the Biblical records of theocratic assemblies. The assembly of the Israelites in the wilderness at Mount Sinai under Moses in 1513 B.C.E., numbered over two million. (Ex. 19:1-19) But even this gathering was insignificant in size as compared to the vaster assemblies of angelic creatures in heaven, from time to time, to pay homage before Jehovah's throne.—Job 1:6; Dan. 7:9-14.

Such a heavenly gathering is referred to at Hebrews 12:22, 23: "But you have approached a Mount Zion and a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels, in *general assembly* [*panegyrei* in Greek]." This Greek word literally means "to all-assembly" (see *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation*) or, as a commentator on this text says, "an assembly of an entire people."* *Webster's* unabridged dictionary says concerning the associated English word "panegyris," "an occasion for laudation (glorifying), public praise." So it seems that the angels not only attended to receive governmental instructions from the Universal Sovereign, but also were involved by rendering responses of praise. (Rev. 19:3) Even the Israelites at Mount Sinai made a response by way of resolution and thus participated in that convocation.—Ex. 19:8.

The significant Christian assembly in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost 33 C.E., was characterized by public participation. After the 120 assembled in the upper room received the holy spirit, they went outside to preach publicly "about the magnificent things of God."—Acts 2:1-11, 41.

MODERN ASSEMBLIES HAVE FEATURED PARTICIPATION

At the Cedar Point Convention of 1922 a "Service Day" was set aside where hundreds of motorcars, each with five passengers, were volunteered days before to be led out into the countryside for witnessing from house to house.† At this convention and at the next six successive annual international conventions, special resolutions were passed by the conventioners, indicating their further participation. These were the beginnings of a global "locustlike" campaign under the leadership of "a king" (Christ Jesus), featuring field preaching that eventually covered all parts of the earth.‡—Rev. 9:1-11.

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* *Harper's Analytical Greek Lexicon;* p. 300.

† *The Watchtower,* June 1, 1955, p. 334.

In 1933 in the United States there were 12,600 publishers who volunteered to be ready on quick call for house-to-house field service on special missions in areas of civic opposition that interfered with the field preaching work. They were organized in "divisions." On several occasions the "divisions" comprised 200 automobiles with five workers each. The cars would assemble at a certain rendezvous point at 9 a.m., each car group receiving a territory assignment sufficient for the five workers. Each worker was given a little bag with the special literature to be offered to the public for that morning's field work.□ By this means a quick, mass coverage was made of difficult territory in problem centers of certain cities. Indeed the Biblically described "locusts" were on the job. In effect, the Witnesses to this day continue as the foretold "locusts," fully participating under their King, Christ Jesus.

ALL PLAN TO ATTEND —WORTH MAKING SACRIFICES

Just as all the angels were present for the heavenly assemblies and the happy worshipers in David's time made the effort to get to Jerusalem to participate in the singing responses and shouts of praise, so should every one of us attend today. Then like King David we will be able to say: "I will laud [glorify] you in the *big congregation;* among a numerous people I shall praise you." (Ps. 35:18) In Jesus' day, he and others walked many miles to get to Jerusalem for the three happy festivals of participation each year. Yes, there were doubtless occasional inconveniences, perhaps some poor sleeping accommodations, and while traveling they may have had lesser food supplies amid heat and dust, but all that paled into insignificance when measured by the joy of being assembled with Jehovah's people—holy and clean.—Lev. 23:2.

To be assembled with the "congregated throngs" of Jehovah's people in 1978 will likewise require making sacrifices. Money needs to be saved to travel the longer distances for you and your family. Accommodations during the five days may not be quite as comfortable as at home; they may be expensive. You will need to adjust to the large crowds, as these happily move to and fro over the convention grounds. In many assembly halls there may not be the same comforts as at home. Meals may be lighter, but the refreshments provided will be sufficient for maintaining physical strength. After all, it is the spiritual feasting that counts. So if we should have to put up with some minor creature discomforts, this will be more than compensated for by our being present as public praisers of Jehovah our Sovereign God.—Eph. 4:2.

PEOPLE MEET PEOPLE

One purpose of Jehovah in gathering his people together periodically in such large throngs is that there might be an international interchange of encouragement and experiences. (Rom. 1:11, 12) We of the United States need to get acquainted with dedicated people from many lands abroad who will be visiting us at our American conventions. Therefore we should be outgoing, take the initiative to introduce ourselves and mix with our brothers from other lands. Let our children get to meet children from non-American countries. At past international assemblies many friendships have been struck up and maintained by letter exchanges for years later. Enjoy every fleeting hour of the convention program during the five days, and also the hours between the sessions. Jehovah is bringing us visibly together as an international society of Christian witnesses to be viewed by the public on the world stage. Preliminary foundations for a post-Armageddon "new earth" are further being laid. Are you going to be present to share in the fulfillment of God's purposes for our day?

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‡ *"Then Is Finished the Mystery of God,"* pp. 235-8.

□ *The Watchtower*, July 15, 1955, pp. 426, 427.

PRESENTABLENESS

We can adorn the assembly, also, by dressing in an appropriate, pleasing way. It is unthinkable that Jesus in his day, and the other happy Israelites who traveled to Jerusalem for the festivals, attended there unkempt as to grooming and shabby as to clothing, or even in lounging attire. Surely the angels in heaven always make their appearance before the Sovereign Majesty of the heavens in a respectful way. So in like manner the vast crowds of Jehovah's people, young and old, who attend the assemblies should be well groomed, cleanly dressed in good taste according to the custom of their land. It may be that some of our brothers from other countries will come dressed in their clean, bright native costumes. Take an interest in the styles and colors displayed and be eager to have fellowship with them. Get to learn a few words of greetings in their language.

CLEANLINESS AND UPRIGHTNESS

All attenders should share in keeping the convention grounds clean and unlittered. Convention hall owners have commended us on this in the past. Do your part to keep up this fine reputation. We serve a "holy" God and therefore everything we do should be clean and upright. (1 Pet. 1:16) This likewise means that we continue to be honest in all our dealings, not only with our brothers, but also with all outsiders.

MAINTAINING GOOD ORDER

At all times we and our children should exercise the fruitage of the spirit, especially that of self-control. Remember, we must live up to our name, Jehovah's Witnesses. That means we serve a God of order. (1 Cor. 14:33) Furthermore, being under the wise leadership of Christ Jesus, we cannot walk in the wild, uncontrolled ways of the wicked world.—Col. 2:5.

At the hotels, motels, private homes or wherever we are accommodated, let us walk decently as Christians. Obey the rules of the hotel or motel where you stay. Do not be marking up the property or making loud noise that disturbs neighbors. Honorably pay for the number agreed upon to stay in the room. When there are small social gatherings in the evenings, let these take place decently and with dignity. There should be a marked difference between our social gatherings and the carryings-on and antics of the non-Christians. Wherever we go or whatever we are doing, we should perform all things to God's glory.—1 Cor. 10:31.

We regret to have to say that in the recent past a few brothers have acted in a disgraceful way that has brought reproach upon Jehovah's people. They yielded to the ways of the flesh. May a good report in your case come in as from one motel owner in July, 1977, who wrote: "We certainly enjoyed having your people stay with us. Your people exemplify the very best in good moral conduct and principles. I commend the Watchtower Society. You are a fine group."

A little wine makes glad the heart of man. (Ps. 104:15) But the immoderate use of it or of stronger drinks borders on drunkenness, which is improper conduct not befitting a Christian delegate at these conventions. Where there is immoral conduct of a gross nature at the conventions, the individuals should be reported to the Convention Administration so that the congregation elders where they are associated can be advised, enabling them to handle the matter properly and without needless delay. Convention times are joyous occasions, but they are not occasions for making raucous noises that disturb neighbors and outsiders.

WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE "LOCUST" BAND IN ACTION?

Friday morning of the "Victorious Faith" Conventions has been set aside for large-scale field service as has often been featured in the past. The joy of preaching the good news in those previous years will be recaptured as we go forth like "locusts" in a unique field campaign Friday morning. The service will be open to all dedicated Witnesses in good standing, unbaptized ones who meet the requirements to serve in the field (*or* pp. 128-

130), and any others who may wish to accompany an experienced field publisher as an observer.

CAMPAIGN PLANS

Each convention will have a Field Service Department that will work out all the details to carry out the campaign locally. This department will be under the supervision of the "Program Overseer," who is one of the Convention Committee of three. Arrangements will be made for elders and ministerial servants who have volunteered to serve as field captains at the convention city to direct groups out from every motel and hotel where large groups of brothers are accommodated. Also, every Kingdom Hall will be a center from which field service is directed for those privately accommodated in the area around the Kingdom Hall. For those who desire to come down to the convention hall itself, arrangements will be made to take out large groups by providing transportation for them to serve the outer sections of the city and its environs. Also, the center of the city will be the scene of street work and store-to-store service.

Before leaving your congregation for the convention city, your elders will have organized what car groups they could for field service at the convention city. The car captain will obtain territory for the car group.

By 9:00 Friday morning, groups of Witnesses should be ready to move out into the field for house-to-house visitations, street work, informal witnessing and to speak with the public wherever they are seen in small groups, as at bus stops. You will not need to bring a book bag nor learn a presentation. A simplified and effective campaign of action will be outlined for you at the assembly, where you will also be able to obtain specially prepared equipment for the field.

At the close of the Thursday afternoon session, complete announcements and a demonstration will be given as to how to perform the service on Friday morning. Also, at the close of this Thursday session there will be released small, opaque, plastic witnessing bags for $1.00 each. Each bag will contain a supply of magazines, handbills and the release made on Wednesday. These items will be offered to the public in our field service. The plastic witnessing bag will have marked on both sides: "1978 'Victorious Faith' International Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." This bag can be carried so that the public can see these words. Whatever literature is left over may be used on the way home or in your home territory.

Each witnessing bag will have sufficient literature for one or two publishers who may work together. It may be that at each hotel or motel special desks may be permitted in the lobby from which the assigned captains may issue territory. If so, the territory for each car group could be handed out Wednesday and Thursday as family groups come into the motel. Then at 9 a.m. Friday each group may go right out into the field for about two hours to complete the small assignments. There will be no need for assembling together for text and prayer. A few additional witnessing packages could be on hand Friday morning for those who may not have obtained their service kit at the assembly hall. Publishers may wish to bring their personal Bible along in case persons in the field ask questions that require a Bible answer. The plastic bag will be of sufficient size to hold the Bible in addition to the other items. The few words that need to be said at the doors will be explained at the close of Thursday afternoon's session. Where the people do not accept the offer for the suggested contribution, the publishers should use the handbills to invite them to the convention sessions and the public meeting.

Upon completing your service in the field you may return directly to the convention site where refreshments will be available from 12 noon until time for the afternoon program to begin.

As a 1978 conventioner, plan to be in action in the field during this very special campaign. It will remain in your theocratic memory as a blessing from Jehovah. Like David, may we be able to say: "Among the congregated throngs I shall bless Jehovah."—Ps. 26:12.

Helping Widows and Orphans (*Cont'd*)

can learn a great deal about their true situation from observation and by listening to their casual remarks. For example, facial expressions and evidence of fatigue can tell us much. The more we converse with them at the Kingdom Hall, while with them when sharing in field service, or in their home or ours, the better acquainted we will become with their real needs. We should, of course, avoid prying into their affairs.

4 After ascertaining areas where help and encouragement are needed and would be appreciated, we should follow through to the extent possible. It may be a matter of assisting with home cleaning, washing or shopping. Sometimes material aid in the form of money, clothing or food, may be appropriate. (Compare 1 Timothy 5:3-10; 1 John 3:17, 18.) It could be very encouraging for persons in need to be invited to accompany you in the Bible study activity or on return visits, as well as in other field service activities. Then, too, including them in wholesome social activities may be beneficial in filling their need for companionship. —Luke 14:12-14.

5 Of course, a person must exercise care that he does not force his attention on someone who may not particularly be drawn to him. When a brother really has concern for a boy in an unfortunate circumstance and shows this by his genuine warmth and interest, the boy usually will respond in time. The relationship will develop naturally, perhaps without either the brother or the youngster having to say anything about it. For example, they may really come to enjoy working in the field service together and interchanging thoughts and experiences. While the brother can never actually fill the role of the boy's father, he can be a confidential friend. Because of the age difference, he may be like a father, but rightly realizes that he is more like an older brother.

6 Just how much a person can do is, of course, governed by circumstances. A single brother, for example, may be limited in what he could do to assist a widow and her children so as not to give any wrong impressions. On the other hand, such widows should not interpret attention given to their children as evidence of interest in them as a possible marriage mate. Often it is best for sisters to assist widows or for married couples to do so together. Moreover, if any aid is given to children unaccompanied by parents, we should take into consideration the feelings of living parents and not undermine parental influence and direction.

7 As in the case of all other members of the congregation, we can be a source of encouragement to orphans and widows and other afflicted ones if we are alert to their needs and respond to these to the extent our circumstances allow. It is really a matter of heeding the admonition of the apostle Peter: "Have intense love for one another."—1 Pet. 4:8.

Cultivate a Longing for Spiritual Food

1 Do you have a longing for spiritual food? Are you looking for opportunities to increase your understanding of the Scriptures to strengthen your own faith, and to be better equipped to help others to come to an accurate knowledge of the truth? How do you feel when a day passes without your having given much thought to spiritual matters? Do you sense a certain emptiness?

2 Our having a real longing for spiritual food does not come automatically. Before we became disciples of Jesus Christ, we may have been completely absorbed with the daily affairs of life and pleasures. Hence, a person must exert himself to get out of that routine and to begin centering his life around spiritual things. The apostle Peter urged new believers: "As newborn infants, form a longing for the unadulterated milk belonging to the word."—1 Pet. 2:2.

3 But not just new ones should be concerned about their spiritual appetite. (Heb. 5:14–6:2) Just as a person cannot continually neglect his physical needs and expect to do quality work day in and day out, he cannot have strong, sustaining faith without feeding himself spiritually. When repeatedly faced with the unresponsiveness of relatives, acquaintances and people in the territory, he may find that he does not have the spiritual fortitude to keep on witnessing, convinced that he is doing God's work and that the reward is sure. (1 Cor. 3:9; Heb. 6:10; 11:6) Without a proper spiritual diet, a person simply cannot be enthusiastic about declaring the "good news." His heart will not be filled to overflowing, causing the mouth to speak. —Luke 6:45.

HOW TO CULTIVATE A SPIRITUAL APPETITE

4 This gives rise to the question, What can we do to improve our spiritual appetite? We do need some definite stimulation to move us to want to consider spiritual things. The apostle Peter called attention to this when he wrote, "provided you have tasted that the Lord is kind." (1 Pet. 2:3) So, if you find that your desire for spiritual food is not what it should be, *take time to think about what you have already tasted.* In fact, all of us can benefit by reflecting on questions such as these: What evidence can I point to that the Lord Jesus Christ has been kind to me? Am I not indebted to him because of his having given his life for me? Has it not brought joy to my heart to be in association with his disciples who have genuine love among themselves? Am I not grateful for Jehovah's mercy and undeserved kindness? Our *considering these things time and again* can have a wholesome effect on our heart, moving us to want to show our appreciation to Jehovah God and Jesus Christ.

5 How will this appreciative attitude manifest itself? We will want to be taught by Jehovah and his Son through the pages of the Bible and Bible-based publications. Also, we will be stirred to imitate their perfect example. Yes, it takes effort to read the Scriptures and Bible-based publications and thereafter to think about what we have read and to apply the information to ourselves. But is it not true that maintaining good friendships always requires effort? And what could possibly be of greater value than taking steps to grow in our love for Jehovah and his Son? May we, therefore, work at having and maintaining a good spiritual appetite so that we can prove ourselves to be friends of God and Christ, and an encouragement to our brothers. Furthermore, may we be diligent in helping others to form a longing for spiritual food by stimulating their appetite with the good things we have already tasted.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *World Government* book:

May 7: Pages 175 to 182
May 14: Pages 183 to 191
May 21: Review of the book.

Schedule for congregation book studies in the *Word of God* book*:

May 28: Pages 5 to 10

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* Use whatever time may remain each week to consider a portion of the Bible reading scheduled for that week in the Theocratic School.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

With Tract No. 25

[1] How fine it will be for all of us to share in distributing *Kingdom News* No. 25 for the entire month of May! Along with the tract, we shall also be using the *Life* book or magazines. The subject matter of *Kingdom News* No. 25 should have wide appeal. As people face the daily anxieties of life and note the world's mounting problems, they often wonder, "Why are we here?"

[2] Again we encourage you to use the tract to start conversations. The scriptures that are quoted in this particular *Kingdom News* are ones that we commonly share with others in our witnessing. So you may wish to select a text that you could easily use to stimulate interest in the Bible's message. It may be helpful to talk with other publishers to see what they have found helpful in getting conversations started. Especially if you recognize a need to become more skillful in witnessing with the Bible, you may wish to make definite arrangements to share in the tract work with another brother or sister. And, when unable to work with an experienced publisher, do not hesitate simply to present the tract and to offer the *Life* book. If your circumstances allow, why not enroll as an auxiliary pioneer? By spending more time in the field, you may be surprised to see how much easier it becomes to start conversations.

[3] Whether we are experienced in declaring the "good news" or not, we do need to think about something definite to share with others. The subject we will be discussing is furnished by the tract—"Why Are We Here?" How can we get into the subject? A person might say something like this: "I have stopped by to share with you the answer to a question that has puzzled many people. Have you ever wondered, Why are we here on earth?"

[4] Possibly the individual will say that he has not thought about the matter at all. This may simply be his way of telling you that he is not interested. In that case, you may find it advantageous to mention briefly why many people are concerned about the reason for our existence and that many have been pleased to learn that a reasonable and satisfying answer is available. At this point you could direct attention to the tract.

[5] On the other hand, the householder may be interested. Therefore, you may wish to use a scripture from the section, "Why, Then, Are We Here?" and read it, either from the tract or the Bible. If you ascertain that he has the time, introduce the *Life* book. You could open to chapter 3, "A Paradise Home Ahead," and read the first three paragraphs. Then consider some of the questions on that material. Thereafter, offer the *Life* book and make definite arrangements to continue considering the chapter. Try to stimulate the householder's interest in reading the material by calling attention to the subheadings in chapter 3.

[6] Of course, we cannot expect to start a study with most of those on whom we call. In fact, some householders may not even want to converse. Nevertheless, we should try to leave a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 25 with as many as possible and encourage them to read it.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	647	126.5	45.6	4.6	93.3
Pios.	13,847	80.8	31.5	3.7	67.4
Aux. Pios.	7,890	52.5	18.7	1.5	42.0
Pubs.	483,108	7.4	3.9	.4	8.5
TOTAL	505,492				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,395

Appreciate Your Possession (*Cont'd*)

Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making. Of course, no one can determine for us individually how much time we should be devoting to this activity. But would it be consistent for someone who really loves Jehovah to think that it does not matter as long as he at least does something, when he could have done much more? Could a person say that he appreciates being able to serve God and Christ when he spends more time in pursuing a hobby or some other pleasure than he does in spiritual activities? Is he really giving his best?—Compare Malachi 1:8.

[5] Recognizing that we will be called to account by God and Christ, we do well to examine how we are using our time. (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; compare Luke 12:35-40, 47, 48.) We have chosen to serve them, and, therefore, have received priceless benefits, including the forgiveness of our sins, divine help and guidance, and the promise of eternal life. So, then, the way in which we are spending our time should harmonize with what we have agreed to do and should show appreciation for what Jehovah God and Jesus Christ have done for us. We can ask ourselves individually: Would I want to stand before God and have my record of fine works reviewed? Am I willing to pray as did David, "Examine me, O Jehovah"?—Ps. 26:2.

[6] Perhaps realizing that we may not have used our time well, we might be apprehensive about being examined now. If so, we should think seriously about making improvement in the future. Our love for Jehovah and Jesus Christ should move us to be whole-souled in serving them. If we do what we reasonably can, we will have no reason to fear a careful examination of our record as Christians. In fact, we will be happy to have our record of fine works reviewed, confident that Jehovah will reward us.—Heb. 6:10.

[7] Truly, we want to be like David, finding delight in our relationship with Jehovah and our service to him. If we continue to view this as a priceless possession, we can look forward to standing as approved before the judgment seat of our Master, Jesus Christ, and hence, also before Jehovah God.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

See Presenting the Good News. Use any scripture in tract that you find appropriate for your territory.

Announcements

- Literature offer for May: Tract distribution for the whole month. June: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and *Life Does Have a Purpose* for $1.85. July: *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription with a 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers for $2.00.
- School overseer may want to discuss Question Box material at the conclusion of the Theocratic School. This should be brief so the school will end within one hour.
- The Society has on occasion received correspondence from the postal service and other individuals about literature being placed in mailboxes without proper postage. Publishers should be reminded that, according to government regulations, anyone who puts material into a mailbox without having properly paid the postage faces a fine of up to $300 for each offense. Even mail slots are considered recognized mail receptacles.
- New Publications Available:

Listening to the Great Teacher —Arabic, Fijian

The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Punjabi, Tongan

Is There A God Who Cares? —Kikongo, Lingala, Persian, Samoan, Sango, Twi

Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood —Danish

"Singing and Accompanying Yourselves with Music in Your Hearts" (Deluxe edition) —Italian

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JUNE 1978
Vol. 21, No. 6
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

You will be pleased to know that three years after beginning extensive remodeling work on the 15-story, 450-room former Towers Hotel, the work has been completed and the remodeled lobby and lounge were opened on April 15. When this building was purchased in January of 1975, many thought that it would care for our housing needs for many years to come, as it had room for some 1,000 people. However, due to the continued growth of the Brooklyn Bethel family, the building is now fully occupied.

In addition to housing about half of the Bethel family, this building has its own kitchen and dining rooms to care for those living there. Also located there are the sewing room, dry cleaning and shoe repair departments, a meeting hall for family programs, a library, a portion of the laundry and an infirmary to care for our medical needs. This building is connected with our other home buildings by an underground tunnel system.

Tours of the Bethel home are now originating from the Towers lobby at 79 Willow Street, and we invite you to come for a tour anytime convenient to you during our regular working hours, Monday through Friday, or on Saturday morning. It is best to arrive sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. so that you will have time to complete your tour. There are no tours on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday. A tour of the Bethel home originating at the Towers lobby takes about one hour to complete. The factory tour, which begins at 117 Adams Street, takes nearly two hours. We also invite you to tour our shipping facilities located at 30 Columbia Heights. This tour takes about 20 minutes. No appointments are needed to take these tours, but if you have a group of more than 30 persons,

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

Sharing Joys of House-to-House Preaching

[1] By what method of preaching were you first contacted with the truth? Were you one of the 9,000,000 individuals who heard and saw the Photo-Drama of Creation in 1914? Was it by means of the radio or sound cars? Did your parents, relatives or friends first approach you with the good news? Or was it by the house-to-house preaching of one of Jehovah's Witnesses? No doubt many of us would say, "By a Witness calling at my home."

[2] Jesus, the apostles and early disciples all took the initiative in bringing the good news to people by going to their houses. (Matt. 24:14) And now, for over 50 years, Jehovah's people have put forth similar efforts. Due to their desire to reach all, they have spent hundreds of millions of hours visiting people in their homes. The fine results over the years testify to the wisdom of this method of preaching.—Matt. 11:19.

[3] The highest court of the United States recognized this method of preaching when it said, "Preaching from house to house is an age-old method of proselytizing. . . . For centuries it has been a common practice in this and other countries for persons not specifically invited to go from home to home and knock on doors or ring doorbells. . . ."

[4] Much of a person's life is spent in or around his home. Would it not be true that at home a person may more readily listen to what you have to say since he is free from the distractions of business? In talking to individuals or family groups in the house-to-house work, we can often give more extensive personal assistance by answering their questions and objections. This opens the way for return visits and Bible studies.

[5] Did not Jesus say, "Make disciples of people of all the nations"? (Matt. 28:19) Our house-to-house witnessing not only shows we are obedient and have love for God and neighbor, but it also shows that our love is not partial, because we visit everyone in our area.

[6] Would you like to have more zeal for the service? Then try sharing regularly each month in the house-to-house work. Is it not true that the most zealous publishers in the congregation are regularly engaging in this form of preaching?

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

Help Them to Serve Again

[1] Serving Jehovah is one of the greatest privileges anyone could have. The psalmist said that to him a day in God's courtyards was better than a thousand elsewhere. (Ps. 84:10) Concerning the "great crowd," Revelation 7:15 says: "That is why they are before the throne of God; and they are rendering him sacred service day and night in his temple." Regarding Anna the prophetess, Luke 2:37 says that "she was a widow now eighty-four years old, who was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications." Who else but Jehovah would we want to serve? Jesus said in reply to Satan's effort to tempt him: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service."—Matt. 4:10.

[2] So today we are rightly concerned about any of our brothers who stop serving Jehovah, even if they stop only for a short time. Are there some in your congregation who have become inactive in recent years? Are there some you do not see at the meetings anymore? What are your thoughts toward them? Would you like to help them?

WHAT MIGHT YOU DO?

[3] This could be discussed by the elders at their June meeting. One elder, possibly the Secretary, could check the Publisher's Record Card file and make a note of those who have become inactive or are in danger of becoming so. An elder might want to call on a certain publisher because of previous acquaintance and association with that one. Or, other publishers can be asked to help. Maybe you studied with one and would now welcome the opportunity to be of special assistance in this time of need.

[4] What will you do? What will you say? It is probably best just to stop in for a short visit. Let them know they have been missed by you and by others. Show your genuine interest and concern. Without prying, try to learn why they have been absent and what they need. Let them know how others

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JUNE 4

10 min: Song 90. Announcements from p. 3 and local announcements.

23 min: "Sharing Joys of House-to-House Preaching." Conduct by means of questions and answers. In connection with paragraph nine, discuss with audience how the book *Life Does Have a Purpose* and the *New World Translation* might be presented. Inasmuch as we will use the same book in June as in May, can use same approach as considered under Presenting the Good News in May issue of *Our Kingdom Service*. In fact, you can use the tracts again in June if you have any left over. Have demonstration showing how last month's discussion with the tract can be adjusted for June's discussion and offer.

22 min: Family Bible Reading. The objective of this Bible reading and discussion is to consider events of Nisan 16, Jesus' resurrection day, identifying particularly the five appearances of Jesus to his followers on that day. Have group of five to seven persons, members of a household that would fit the circumstances in your congregation. It could perhaps include parents, children and grandparents, or some other set of relatives or persons living together. Have different ones read the scriptures, but have one or two persons in the household obviously prepared and leading the discussion, helping others to see the sequence of events on Nisan 16, perhaps filling in related details as the discussion progresses. (1) Appears to the women as they run to tell the apostles what the two angels at the tomb told them. (Matt. 28:1-10; Luke 24:4, 5) (2) To Mary Magdalene at the tomb, after Peter and John had left. (John 20:3-18) (3) To the two disciples walking to the village of Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-32) (4) When the two disciples returned to Jerusalem they learned from those gathered there that Jesus had meanwhile appeared to Peter. (Luke 24:33-35) (5) Finally, to all those met behind locked doors because of fear. (Luke 24:36-43) In conclusion encourage brothers regularly to include Bible reading in the family schedule. For example, it would be good to read beforehand the Scriptural accounts on which the dramas at this summer's conventions will be based. Again refer the congregation to the information regarding this under Announcements.

5 min: Song 87 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 11

10 min: Song 5. Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Branch Letter and Question Box. Discuss with audience by means of questions and answers.

15 min: What Should Children Read? See *Awake!*, March 22, 1978. Can be handled by means of a talk, but drawing the audience into the discussion.

15 min: House-to-House Work in Our Congregation. Outline arrangements congregation has for meetings for service. If elders have some adjustments in mind, mention these. Comment on how many publishers usually share in these arrangements. Do all book study groups have such meetings? After reviewing matters, do elders have suggestions for building up participation in house-to-house work? Discuss these with your congregation.

5 min: Song 65 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 18

10 min: Song 86. Local announcements. Congregation report for May.

20 min: "Help Them to Serve Again." Part of this can be handled by means of a talk, but bring the audience into the discussion frequently. On paragraph one, in addition to discussing thoughts there expressed, can ask audience: "What have you especially enjoyed about serving Jehovah over the years?" On paragraph four, in addition to discussing thoughts there expressed, can ask audience: "What other things do you believe can help inactive ones to begin serving again?"

25 min: Become Imitators of God. A capable elder should be assigned this part, which will require a good deal of preparation. He should be ready with additional questions, and should be thoroughly acquainted beforehand with the application of the scriptures cited. To aid him with his advance preparation he can read his copy of *"Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock,"* pages 7-14.

Jehovah is an outstanding example for man in every aspect of life. (Eph. 5:1) We will consider His example in these three areas: (1) Jehovah, the Grand Instructor. (2) Jehovah, the Great Evangelizer, supervisor of the worldwide preaching work. (3) Jehovah, a lover of justice and a God of mercy. Invite the audience to comment on how we can imitate Jehovah in these areas.

(1) Jehovah, the Grand Instructor: Never has mankind been without direction from Jehovah. Instructions were given to Adam on the subduing of the earth. The prophets and priests of Israel continued to instruct Jehovah's people. (Neh. 8:7, 8) Jesus, too, was noted for his masterful way of teaching. (Matt. 7:28) However, Jesus himself said, "What I teach is not mine." (John 7:16; 8:38) What provisions have been made by Jehovah for the schooling of his people today? What do we learn about Jehovah's teaching from Jesus?

(2) Jehovah, the Great Evangelizer: Jehovah provided good news for man when uttering the first prophecy in Genesis 3:15. It was prophesied that Jesus would "tell good news to the meek ones." (Isa. 61:1) The good news (evangel) was to be "preached in all the inhabited earth." (Matt. 24:14) Jehovah is responsible for the preaching work. (2 Tim. 4:17) If we find we are slacking off in our preaching work, what can we do? What should motivate us? Why should we take steps to improve?

(3) Jehovah loves justice and displays mercy: How were both justice and mercy displayed in Eden? Note Jehovah's perfect balance in these qualities. (Ex. 34:6, 7) The ransom provision is based on justice. (1 Tim. 2:6) How can we display these qualities in dealing with: (a) Those with a weak conscience? (b) Those who may have offended us? (c) Younger members of the congregation?

In imitating Jehovah we have the finest example to follow in the universe. We share the desire of the psalmist to 'worship and bow down before our Maker.'—Ps. 95:6, 7.

5 min: Song 41 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 25

8 min: Song 36. Local announcements.

15 min: "How Is Your Household?" To be considered by means of questions and answers.

20 min: Whole-souled in God's Service—Are You? Handled by an elder as a talk with audience discussion, including use of questions below. To be well prepared beforehand, elder can read his copy of *"Pay Attention to Yourselves and to All the Flock,"* pages 41-43, and *or*, pages 108, 109, 132-4. (1) What is whole-souled service? It involves using your whole soul, including your heart, mind and strength, every fiber of your existence. (2) Can imperfect people be whole-souled? Jesus would not require something if it were not possible to do so. (Mark 12:30) (3) How does Jesus' illustration of the sower in Matthew 13 relate to the evangelizing work and the matter of being whole-souled? Was the one bearing thirtyfold not whole-souled? (4) Is it reasonable to conclude that as long as we are doing something in Jehovah's service we are whole-souled? Why is it dangerous to become complacent? (Rev. 3:1, 2, 15, 16; Luke 21:34-36) (5) Hence, what circumstances should be taken into account today in considering what people do in their service to God?

12 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Offering Subscriptions to Everyone." Consider by means of questions and answers.

5 min: Song 115 and prayer.

House-to-House Preaching *(Cont'd)*

7 Some may feel that the house-to-house service is not being stressed so much because of the territories' being so well covered. It is true that in many places the territories are worked regularly with the magazines and other literature. But have we contacted every individual possible whose heart and mind can be filled with Bible truth? Concerning a woman to whom Paul witnessed the record says, "Jehovah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul."—Acts 16:14.

8 Many are the expressions of joy that have been made by those sharing in this method of witnessing. One brother says, "It is hard for me to get started in house-to-house work. Then when I get started I enjoy it so much I don't want to stop." Another publisher says, "I feel that this is what keeps me strong in the truth." A pioneer sister remarks, "I just can't wait to get into the field, for every house is like a surprise package. What will the people inside be like?"

9 During the month of June, how fine it will be to offer the *New World Translation* and the book *Life Does Have a Purpose* while sharing in house-to-house preaching.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Why are we here?

Life does have a purpose.—Isa. 45:18.

Published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201
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Announcements

- When requests for territory adjustments are submitted to the Society, it will save us time processing the adjustment and lessen the need for additional correspondence if the instruction letter, "How to Request a Territory Adjustment," (S-6) is carefully followed. If you do not have a copy in your files, we would be happy to send you one.

- It would be good for all the congregation book study conductors to consider carefully the instructions appearing on the second page of the question booklet for *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* There it suggests that the group use whatever time may remain to consider a portion of the Bible reading scheduled for that week in the Theocratic School.

- Secretaries please note: In harmony with paragraph 7 of *Instructions for Congregation Accounting*, congregations should send in only ONE CHECK EACH MONTH to remit for all literature, magazines and subscriptions. Please enclose a properly filled out remittance form so the Society will know what the check is for and how it is to be applied.

- Effective June 1, the cost of pocket-size books will be: Pioneers, 10c; Congregation, 30c; Public, 35c.

- Literature offer for June: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and *Life Does Have a Purpose* for $1.85. July: *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription with a 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers. August: If excess stocks of older books are still available, offer three books for 60c. Should include two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book from list on page three of January, 1978, *Our Kingdom Service*. Otherwise, use any one of the pocket-size books for 35c.

- In preparation for the Bible dramas at the international assemblies this year, families will find it profitable to read together the Bible accounts on which they are based, as follows: Genesis 19:1-26, which describes the flight out of Sodom by Lot and his family; 1 Peter 3:1-6 and Titus 2:2-5 telling of the contribution Christian women can make to the congregation; Acts chapters 3 to 7 highlighting the boldness of the apostles in the face of official opposition and Acts chapters 14 to 20 and 28, which show how Timothy's life course is an example for youths today.

- New Publications Available:
  "Singing and Accompanying Yourselves with Music in Your Hearts" (Deluxe edition) —Danish, Spanish

- Available Again in the U.S.A.:
  Divine Victory—Its Meaning for Distressed Humanity —English, Spanish
  Human Plans Failing as God's Purpose Succeeds —Spanish

- Out of Stock in U.S.A.:
  1978 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses —English, Spanish

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

it would be good to notify us of your time of arrival in advance so that we can give you better service. Although our factory and home facilities are within 15 minutes' walking distance of each other, the complete tour of our entire complex takes almost half a day, so comfortable walking shoes are helpful.

The Bethel family is very pleased with this new facility and we want to thank the hundreds of brothers from around the country who volunteered to help with the remodeling work. Their hard work, the support of all of you, and the blessing of Jehovah have made all this possible.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

How Is Your Household?

1 "A devout man and one fearing God together with all his household." Is that not a desirable situation? Does it describe your household as well? Interestingly, this is not a Christian household being spoken about. Yet it was one in which daily prayers were offered to God, and sincere efforts were made to serve the Most High. Thus God sent an angel who told this man to send for Peter in order to learn about salvation.—Acts 10:2; 11:13, 14.

2 You probably recognize the man —the Italian army officer, Cornelius. He and his household were the first uncircumcised Gentiles to become Christians. But the Bible speaks of other households, and tells of the necessary steps these took to win God's favor.

3 Regarding a royal attendant, evidently of King Herod Antipas, the Bible says: "He and his whole household believed." Of Lydia and those living with her, we are told: "She and her household got baptized." Similarly, of a Philippian jailer the Bible says: "He and his were baptized without delay. . . . and he rejoiced greatly with all his household now that he had believed God."—John 4:53; Acts 16:15, 33, 34.

4 Does your household, too, *believe?* Are they convinced in mind and heart as to the *real* identity of Jesus—that he is *actually* God's Son from heaven who gave his life in a sacrificial death here on earth so that we might gain eternal life? Of course, something needs to precede believing. What? Knowledge, for how can you really believe in something if you do not know about it? Are there provisions for your household to grow in knowledge of God? There really need to be.

5 What are mealtimes like in your household? Some of us, in conversation recently, said that we remember so well our whole family gathering around the meal table together. These were good times of fellowship, and for us who were in the truth, it was a fine time for discussing and reviewing spiritual things. Mealtimes are such enjoyable and beneficial times at Bethel today. Is this true in your home? If not, could you arrange for them to be? This can play an important part in developing a truly *believing* household.

6 Note what one father who raised 18 children in the truth observed: "Eating together has definitely contributed toward our unity, affording us, for example, the opportunity to pray together. And it has enabled me to inculcate in my children the sayings of God 'when sitting in my house,' in harmony with His will that I do so. (Deut. 6:6, 7) It has also helped me to keep my finger on the pulse of the family, to observe attitudes or trends, and to apply whatever I perceived to be the remedy according to the spiritual needs of all of us."—*The Watchtower,* June 1, 1976.

7 Having family meals together may involve making some adjustments in schedules for the household, but it truly can be worth the effort or expense. A father who successfully raised three boys in the truth writes: "Although I was working more than fifteen miles (25 kilometers) away from home, I came back for lunch. I felt that the cost was more than outweighed by the advantages of a family meal. What a lot of problems were solved around the family table!"—*The Watchtower,* November 15, 1977.

8 Jesus, too, used mealtimes to discuss spiritual matters and apparently the disciples did too. (John 21:15-17; Acts 2:42, 46) But it is also good when other times can be set aside for Bible reading and discussion. Why not, for instance, take segments of the life of Jesus and read at one session portions of the Bible that relate only to that particular part of Jesus' life. For example, many enjoyable sessions of Bible reading and discussion can revolve around just the few days between Nisan 8 to 16, 33 C.E.—See *Aid,* page 930.

9 How is your household? This is a question that each of us should ask ourselves often, and then take whatever steps we can to make it one that is spiritually healthy. For really, what benefit is it if we gain the whole world, but our family dies spiritually?

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	639	124.3	46.7	4.7	98.9
Pios.	13,767	89.8	35.7	3.5	79.3
Aux. Pios.	11,572	61.6	21.0	1.6	53.4
Pubs.	483,900	8.1	3.9	.4	9.6
TOTAL	509,878				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,699

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Offering Subscriptions to Everyone

[1] For many years *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* have been vehicles for spiritual food and lifegiving instructions for millions throughout the world. Through these fine publications we have all been helped to strengthen our relationship with Jehovah. In their efforts to make these publications of even more value, the Governing Body is continually striving to improve them. Have you noticed these improvements? Many have commented on the outstanding articles that have appeared, and we can be confident that such consistent improvement will continue. Also, have you appreciated the lively and heartwarming illustrations that have appeared in recent issues?

[2] Many have found that a personal subscription is helpful to them. Why? By having a personal subscription, they are assured of getting every issue, even if for some reason they are unable to get to the Kingdom Hall to pick up a supply for the field service. By having a personal subscription, many have found that they more often read the fine information contained in the magazines right away. Thus they not only benefit personally, but are better prepared to use the magazines in the preaching activity.

[3] Some parents have found that their children take a greater interest in reading articles when they get a personal subscription with their name on it. Perhaps your family would benefit, too, from having a personal subscription for each member of the household.

[4] But besides ourselves and our families, there are thousands of others who would benefit from a personal subscription. Surely none of us would want persons with whom we study to miss the article written that seems to be "just for them." By their having a personal subscription, they will be assured of getting every issue, even though we ourselves may be away for a time. The same would apply to persons on whom we have made return visits in the past.

[5] Certainly it is our desire to assist friends and relatives to know Jehovah and Jesus Christ. A fine way to do that might be to send a gift subscription to them. You no doubt would like to contact them to let them know that they will be receiving the magazines. Or, if you would like the Society to send them a letter of explanation, simply write "Gift" at the top of the subscription blank, and print your name in the space provided.

[6] Of course, we will be offering subscriptions to persons we meet in the door-to-door service as well. If the householder does not accept the offer of a subscription for a year, you may find that he will be pleased to have a subscription for six months, along with a book, just as readily as he would accept a book alone. Why not try offering a six-month subscription and a pocket-size book for $1.35?

[7] So, although our personal contact with people might be limited, the subscription arrangement provides a means by which millions can regularly receive life-giving instructions, like Jehovah's provisions described in Revelation 22:2, "yielding their fruits each month."

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ **In one California congregation during March, over 45 percent of the 117 publishers reporting field service were auxiliary pioneers.**

◆ **The brothers in Hong Kong continue to show fine zeal in field service, with another new peak of 724 publishers in March. Many share as auxiliary pioneers each month, and regular pioneers increase month by month.**

Question Box

● How thoroughly must the outlines provided in "Your Service Meetings" be covered by those assigned?

Those handling meeting parts may find that there is more material provided than they can cover in the time allowed, especially if they work in local application of the material, including experiences, and so on. On the other hand, very small congregations with few publishers to draw on for such material may appreciate having detailed outlines. Therefore, it is suggested that the brothers handling meeting parts tailor them to the local circumstances, using the main points within each part that are applicable locally and illustrating them to the extent possible. This may mean that some of the lesser points will be eliminated to allow for thorough coverage of the main points, much as a public speaker cuts out subpoints if his talk is going overtime. However, this does not mean that the discussion should divert from the basic purpose of the meeting part as outlined.

The Scriptural discussions outlined from time to time may have more material and scriptures provided than can be covered properly when personal experiences are worked in. The one handling the part will do well to allow for this by noting ahead which scriptures or points are most important and using others only as time permits. It is better to cover a few points *with application* to our lives, than to cover many points that are too general.

This is not to say that preparation for service meeting parts is not essential. Each one assigned is expected seriously to prepare his presentation, having in mind his responsibility to serve his brothers well.

Help Them to Serve Again (*Cont'd*)

in the congregation are and what they are doing. Are new ones associating since they last attended? Tell them about it. What is the latest news about the "Victorious Faith" International Convention? Talk about it and encourage them to be there if they have not yet made arrangements. Their attendance, in fact, would probably be the thing that would help them most at this point. Discuss the special day of field service arranged for Friday and how it is expected that a grand witness will be given in all convention cities. Ask if they would like to accompany you to the next meeting at the Kingdom Hall if you were to stop by to go with them. Do not give up if you do not succeed immediately.

[5] How does Jehovah feel about those who stray and need help? To the Israelites he said: "Return to me, and I will return to you." (Mal. 3:7) Jesus gave the parable about a shepherd who left ninety-nine sheep to search for one that was lost. Recall the results? "And if he happens to find it, I certainly tell you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that have not strayed."—Matt. 18:13.

[6] While the elders will organize matters so that as much as possible can be accomplished, do not think that this in any way prohibits you from taking the initiative and offering help on your own. Not at all! All of us are obligated personally to encourage and help whenever we see a need. (Gal. 6:10) You might well be able to accomplish more than anyone else because of your previous acquaintance with the person, or because of your knowledge of a certain situation. "Do not hold back good from those to whom it is owing, when it happens to be in the power of your hand to do it."—Prov. 3:27.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *Word of God* book:

June 4: Pages 11 to 19*
June 11: Pages 19 to 26
June 18: Pages 27 to 34
June 25: Pages 35 to 44

* To subheading.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

JULY 1978
Vol. 21, No. 7
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

How faith strengthening it was for all of us to be present at the Memorial of Christ's death this spring! The incomplete attendance figures for the continental United States indicate that 1,258,837 were assembled, with 4,293 partaking. Early reports from other countries reveal that over 101,000 attended the Memorial in Japan, which is an increase of about 14,000 over the attendance there one year ago! Peru had 45,647 attending, which is about 7,000 more than last year. Now it is our privilege to encourage and assist the many thousands who attended the Memorial with us to become active praisers of Jehovah.

During the past few months branch committee members and their wives from all over the earth have attended a special five-week Gilead course arranged by the Governing Body. We truly enjoyed our association with these faithful ones. Four classes have been completed with 105 brothers attending. School sessions were approximately six hours daily, with additional time spent working with various departments here at Bethel. The brothers appreciated observing the operation of the factory and the Bethel home so there could be an interchange of ideas for improving the work world wide.

A refreshing treat for the wives of these branch committee members was the opportunity they had each day of joining their husbands for the first session, consisting of a stimulating Bible discussion. In most cases, the married brothers were able to bring their wives. We certainly were encouraged by the experiences these brothers and their wives related to the Bethel family while they were here. Also, we enjoyed very much the worldwide flavor their foreign accents and customs brought into our midst.

On another subject, you will be

(*Continued on page 3, col. 3*)

Reach Others by Evangelizing

1 Jesus felt so strongly about the evangelizing work when on earth that he said: "I must declare the good news [evangel] of the kingdom of God." (Luke 4:43) Thus, when he engaged in the evangelizing work, he devoted many hours of the day to spreading the good news. At times when he was seeking rest and food, he was willing to forgo both in order to teach the interested ones about his heavenly Father. (Mark 6:31-34) What an aid such an attitude was in reaching others!

2 Paul reflected the same attitude as Jesus toward sharing in the evangelizing work. He felt it was an obligation that he had to discharge. (1 Cor. 9:16) Do you feel the same urgent need to participate in the evangelizing work? Paul was willing to give his "soul" in order to accomplish this work. (Acts 20:24) How helpful such an attitude can be for us as we do the evangelizing work that we have been assigned.

3 There are many ways we can do the evangelizing work and reach those searching for the truth. Jesus stressed personal contact in the homes. (Matt. 10:11-13) He also went from city to city and village to village. (Matt. 9:35) Paul did witnessing "in the marketplace with those who happened to be on hand." (Acts 17:17) He witnessed to informal groups also. (Acts 16:13) Philip gave a witness to someone traveling on the road. (Acts 8:26-30) Also, Andrew witnessed to his relative. (John 1:40, 41) So, we have many excellent examples to follow.

4 While you are traveling to a convention, perhaps some of you will find it possible to reach someone by evangelizing. Or, you may be vacationing and have the opportunity to converse with someone in an informal manner. Occasionally vacations may include visits to relatives who may not be in the truth, but who perhaps would be receptive to an informal discussion of the Bible.

5 While traveling from city to city and stopping at a service station to get gas, or stopping at a restaurant to eat, we may find an opportunity to give a witness to an attendant or a waitress. They may ask where we are from and how we are enjoying our trip. Such an occasion may arise when we are traveling to a convention, or returning from one, and could present an opportunity to leave appropriate literature to help to spread the "good news" and plant the seed of truth in the heart of such ones. Or, it may be that, while we are staying at a motel, opportunities will arise to have a conversation with the manager or one of the workers. Of course, how we conduct ourselves while using these facilities also is a way we can give a witness.—Titus 2:1-14.

6 There may be occasion, too, to work territory that is not frequently covered. For example, some congregations may be able to travel

(*Continued on page 2, col. 2*)

Select the Best Meeting Times

1 Our Christian meetings are a part of our way of life, are they not? They provide us with the opportunity to receive spiritual food, instruction for witnessing and the best of association. Each one fills a specific need so that all of them together provide us with a balanced spiritual diet. When Paul said "not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together," he must have had all the above thoughts in mind. (Heb. 10:25) To slight our meetings in any way could result in a loosening of our "tight grip on the word of life." (Phil. 2:16) That could be disastrous in these final days of the time of the end.—Luke 21:34-36.

2 It is reasonable that we make the wisest use of our dedicated time. (Col. 4:5) Yet, reports have been received indicating that some desire to rearrange meeting times with a view to providing more "free" time for recreation on the weekends. What basic factors should motivate our thinking when selecting meeting times? Should it be a desire for pleasure? While we may have individual preferences, our prime concern should be selecting meeting times that will enable the majority of *our brothers and interested persons* to attend. Secondly, because we are interested in the spiritual welfare of the people in our territory, meetings should be arranged so that we share in field service when we can accomplish the most good.

3 Local circumstances must always be taken into consideration when selecting meeting times. In a few cases there is little choice as to meeting times because four or five congregations meet in the same Kingdom Hall. But, when this situation does not exist and

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JULY 2

15 min: Song 16. Local announcements and Branch Letter. May be handled by several brothers appreciatively considering material together.

10 min: Demonstrate current offer using suggested presentation. Have someone demonstrate both regular and abbreviated presentation. Audience may comment on good points they observe in presentation as time permits.

"Good morning. I am calling to discuss the need we have in common for a workable solution to moral and governmental problems. Do you feel that man will be able to solve the growing difficulties in crime, economics and politics? [Mention something of local interest.] Whether one is optimistic about man's ability or not, the problems we face make some wonder, 'If there is a Creator, why has he allowed these conditions, and does he offer any solutions?' I was pleasantly surprised when someone shared this text with me. [Read Proverbs 2:21, 22.] Isn't it reassuring that the Creator purposes to fill the earth with upright individuals?" (Show how the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription will enable a person to learn more about God's purpose for the earth.)

Another introduction might be: "Good morning. In view of the changing moral standards, a person could at times question whether it is worth while anymore to try living an honest, morally upright life. Have you noticed that tendency among some?" (Then show Creator's viewpoint.)

30 min: Stimulating review of "Victorious Faith" International Convention. This should be scheduled the week following the assembly that your congregation is scheduled to attend. Brothers should be assigned well in advance to present information on each of the following matters: (1) Things learned regarding field service, including experiences enjoyed on field service day. (2) Things learned relative to family life, including relationships with brothers and sisters basic to Christianity. (3) New things learned from God's Word. (4) Experiences we enjoyed personally or heard that demonstrate faith. If your assembly has not been held as yet, you may take 10 minutes to discuss the May 15, 1978, *Watchtower* article entitled, "All Ready to 'Go.'" Use the remainder of time for local needs.

5 min: Song 64 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 9

10 min: Song 92. Announcements and local announcements.

15 min: "Reach Others by Evangelizing." Discuss material with audience, inviting them to tell how they plan to implement suggestions.

25 min: Panel discusses June 15, 1978, *Watchtower* article entitled, "More 'Workers' Needed—Can You Share?" Discussion followed by 10 minutes of experiences emphasizing not only joys and blessings of pioneer work, but how some have been able to arrange their affairs to become regular and auxiliary pioneers.

5 min: Accounts report. As time permits, consider appropriate material from May 1, 1978, *Watchtower* article entitled, "How Important Is Christian Giving?"

5 min: Song 58 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 16

13 min: Song 45. Discuss Question Box. Local announcements.

10 min: Field overseer discusses following material. Arrangements made for evening witnessing during summer months. Emphasize advantages: More people at home, more relaxed and possibly more receptive. Encourage congregation to care for infrequently worked territory. Outline how much is available and definite arrangements for working before summer's end.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Tactfully Developing Conversations." Questions and answers.

17 min: Demonstration.

(3 min.) Chairman: A major objective in house-to-house work is to reach the hearts of sheeplike persons with the good news. If we can start friendly conversations, we are well on the way to reaching that goal. If you have difficulty starting conversations, you may find it helpful to ask questions. Viewpoint questions are best because they get the householder talking rather than merely answering Yes or No. You may find it helpful to ask someone who is good at starting conversations to work with you in field service so you can develop this ability.

(4 min.) Discussion with audience. Chairman asks: "What questions do you find helpful in starting conversations and keeping them going?" After audience has made suggestions, as time permits consider the following questions that can be used in an introduction: "What kind of future do you want for your children?" "What kind of future do you envision for yourself in the next 10 or 20 years?" "What do you feel is the number one problem in our neighborhood?" "If you had the power to change one thing to benefit mankind, what would it be?" "What do you think is required to have good government?" Scriptural answers to these questions can be found in *Bible Topics for Discussion* or in current offer itself.

(8 min.) Present brief, realistic demonstrations using the most appropriate questions. Show how additional questions can be asked to keep the conversation going so that a good witness can be given.

(2 min.) Chairman: We are looking for those of honest heart. After we have made an effort to reach people with the Kingdom message, if they are not interested, we can conclude the conversation in a pleasant way and continue our search, confident that Jehovah will direct our efforts.—Rev. 14:6, 7.

5 min: Song 10 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING JULY 23

10 min: Song 73. Local announcements and Theocratic News.

12 min: "Select the Best Meeting Times." Questions and answers.

20 min: "'Let All Things Take Place Decently.'" Talk and interview of parents whose children set good example. Parents may explain what they have done to train children properly. Demonstrate how to greet newcomers at Kingdom Hall. Encourage all to have part. Get comments from audience as to what they can do to assist in keeping hall clean and presentable.

13 min: Talk. "Christian 'Works'—What Do They Include?" from June 1, 1978, *Watchtower.*

5 min: Song 24 and prayer.

Announcements

- Literature offer for July: *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription for $2.00, with a 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers. August: Three books for contribution of 70c. (Include two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book.) Otherwise, use any pocket-size book for 35c contribution. September: *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It* for 35c. May also use *Listening to the Great Teacher* or any other pocket-size book. (Regarding how congregations request credit on the larger books, see page 2 of *Our Kingdom Service* for January, 1978.)

- The Society now has a supply of the book *Life Does Have a Purpose* available in Grade-2 English Braille. It may be obtained on a free loan basis by submitting a written request to the Society, Attention: Braille Desk. This book is not to be stocked by the congregations.

- New Publications Available:

  God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good —Afrikaans, Greek, Slovak

  Good News—to Make You Happy —Greek, Thai

  Is This Life All There Is? —Sepedi, Sesotho, Slovak, Tsonga, Ukrainian

  Our Incoming World Government—God's Kingdom —Portuguese

  1976 *Watch Tower Publications Index* —French

  Study Questions for the book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* —Spanish

- Forms for use by congregations during the forthcoming service year will be mailed in August, along with a sheet of instructions, to the congregation secretary. After reading the instructions carefully, the secretary should make sure that the forms are checked in and placed in an appropriate storage location.

- Please arrange a 30-minute review of the "Victorious Faith" International Convention the week following the assembly that your congregation is scheduled to attend. Please see the service meeting schedule for the week of July 2 for further information.

Reach Others by Evangelizing *(Cont'd)*

into rural areas and reach persons in this way. Other congregations have territories that include vacation resort areas where many persons will be spending time at a vacation home and could be reached during the summer.

[7] We may have the occasion to use some means of public transportation and could start up a conversation with someone sitting next to us on a bus, train or airplane. When traveling, some persons are very willing to talk about world conditions, the breakdown in public services, or other subjects that lead into a Bible discussion.

[8] The offer for July, the *Watchtower* or *Awake!* subscription for $2.00, with a 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers, can be used effectively in our July evangelizing. Thus, it would be good to carry

(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

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"Let All Things Take Place Decently"

[1] The apostle Paul was an orderly person. He wanted to see "all things take place decently ["well behavedly," *Int.*]." (1 Cor. 14:40) We today would do well to follow the principles embodied in Paul's words in all our conduct.

[2] For example, how do visitors feel when they enter the Kingdom Hall? Are they welcomed and made to feel comfortable? Are they introduced to others in the congregation by the first ones to meet them? Or, do they enter and find everyone busily engaging in conversation but not noticing them? Sometimes publishers become so involved in conversations with each other that they fail to notice new ones, or greet visiting brothers. Is this an area where we can better arrange our affairs?

[3] Also, it has been noticed that in some Kingdom Halls children could conduct themselves in a more decent manner. Some are found running around in the Kingdom Hall. Others have been talking loudly outside the Kingdom Hall and disturbing neighbors. Of course, parents want to take the lead in correcting such conduct by supervising their children, beginning their training right in the home. But the elders also have a responsibility to help those needing assistance.

[4] It has been found that many children are permitted to make frequent trips to the rest room or drinking fountain during the meetings. One congregation count revealed that 40 of the 120 persons in attendance left the meeting to go to the rest room or drinking fountain. Also, some elders are walking around during the meetings. Perhaps leaving our seats unnecessarily could be avoided even during the songs and prayers since such are part of our worship to Jehovah. It has been noted that some are able to engage in recreation for long periods of time, perhaps one hour or more, and not feel the need to discontinue such activity. Is it not more important to value spiritual matters and meetings and remain present while they are in session?

[5] In some Kingdom Halls chairs have been damaged. Some have been marked up with writing instruments. Others have been torn or cut. Also, rest rooms have been left in disorder. Could it be that we should give these matters more attention than we are presently doing? Are we proud to show our Kingdom Hall to visitors and new ones since it is kept clean and in good repair, or do we shy away from this due to its poor condition?

[6] Perhaps we could all give attention to these matters. It is our responsibility to see that Jehovah's house of worship is kept clean. We want all to be attracted to the Kingdom Hall because of its cleanness and good condition, inside as well as outside, and also because of the decent conduct carried on within it. Jehovah's Witnesses have been noted for good decorum wherever they go in the world. Surely we do not want to lose that fine reputation. Therefore, let all of us take an interest in our conduct that it may bring glory to our Heavenly Father, Jehovah. —1 Pet. 2:12.

Reach Others by Evangelizing (*Cont'd*)

some subscription blanks in addition to literature.

[9] So there are many opportunities open to us to evangelize as we try to reach all persons searching for the truth. We have fine examples of faithful men in times past who were dedicated to giving a thorough witness because they felt obligated to carry out the commission given to them by Jehovah God and Jesus Christ. Some did this work from house to house and others informally, such as in the marketplace, by the seaside or on the road while traveling. We can do likewise and receive the joys of sharing in the evangelizing work. Our mission is to reach as many persons as we can. The time remaining in this system of things is limited. We should do everything possible to see that we complete the evangelizing work.

[10] Would it not then be good to make this work a matter of prayer, individually and as family groups, perhaps praying before we leave our homes? Surely Jehovah will bless our efforts if we let him know of our desire to reach as many as possible in the evangelizing work this summer.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Is there any future for the upright? —Prov. 2:21, 22.

1. Upright receive blessings now and in the future.
2. God promises to destroy wicked.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	608	116.7	42.6	4.6	103.5
Pios.	13,747	86.3	33.5	3.4	82.6
Aux. Pios.	26,667	59.2	18.8	1.3	63.3
Pubs.	480,312	8.5	3.7	.4	10.7
TOTAL	521,334				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,955

Question Box

● How can we help a person to get ready for field service?

In most cases, the publisher conducting the Bible study is in the best position initially to determine when a student is ready to participate in the evangelizing work.

It is essential that the student develop a strong love for Jehovah and Christ Jesus. (Eph. 3:18, 19) His heart and mind must be affected by the truth. Help him to meditate unselfishly on the many expressions of Jehovah's love for mankind. Endeavor to get him to apply quickly what he is learning in his personal life and to think of the needs of other people. This can be done best by asking thought-provoking questions and progressively reasoning with the student. See *or* book, pages 128-130.

It is recommended that we spend sufficient time preparing our student for participation in field activity and endeavor personally to work with him from house to house. Have him share in the public preaching work as much as possible, learning to use the Bible in conversing with householders.

When any new ones desire to get started in the preaching work and feel that they have made progress and are ready, encourage them to talk to one of the local elders about it. They will be pleased to render any assistance that might be needed.

Branch Letter (*Cont'd*)

interested to know that 30 sessions of the Pioneer Service School were conducted in 26 locations throughout the country during March and April. The wives of circuit and district overseers were privileged to attend, as well as many special pioneers and some regular pioneers. So far, more than 1,000 full-time workers have already completed the course. In fact, many of us here at Bethel have enrolled in an abbreviated version of the course, and we appreciate our opportunity to attend along with our brothers and sisters in the pioneer work.

Plans have been made for additional classes to be conducted this fall. Regular pioneers who can serve in areas where the need is greater will be included in the fall classes. If your congregation has a graduate of the Pioneer Service School associated with it, we know you are already aware of the rich blessing this school has been to our pioneers. We send a warm expression of our love and prayers.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Schedule for the congregation book studies in *Word of God* book:

July 2: Pages 45 to 53*
July 9: Pages 53 to 61
July 16: Pages 62 to 67
July 23: Pages 67 to 73
July 30: Pages 74 to 81

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* To subheading.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Tactfully Developing Conversations

1 A pleasant conversation with a householder often results in a fine witness being given from God's Word. However, it is often a challenge to start conversations since people are so preoccupied with their own affairs or have unfounded opinions regarding our work.

2 What might we have in mind that will assist us in tactfully developing conversations? Our own attitude is very important. Have we earnestly prayed to God to help us to find honest-hearted persons and then to aid them spiritually? Do we view each householder as a potential servant of Jehovah? If so, then we will likely be in the proper frame of mind ourselves to convey the truth to others in a loving and tactful manner.

3 It is good to reflect on the loving example of the apostle Paul who was willing to put forth extraordinary effort to adapt himself to the varying circumstances he met in the field. His earnest, heartfelt desire to aid others to understand God's Word was well expressed at 1 Corinthians 9:22, 23: "To the weak I became weak, that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to people of all sorts, that I might by all means save some." We too, should be willing to expend ourselves in behalf of the householder, not viewing him as an opponent to be overcome, but as a prospective sheeplike person to be helped. (Luke 10:5, 6) Persons can often detect if our attitude toward them is negative. So, we should approach each house in a positive spirit of peace.—Eph. 4:29; 6:15.

4 Some persons are able to start conversations by commenting on God's purposes and then pausing to let the householder express himself. Others have found that when they do this the householder may listen politely, but they have difficulty getting him involved in the conversation. If you find yourself in the latter category, why not try asking tactful questions to encourage the householder to participate?

5 Of course, when you ask a question you do not know what the householder will answer and so you should be ready to adjust your theme accordingly. When your comments in response show your recognition of his viewpoint, you may be well on the way to enjoying a lively conversation. Try to keep it going by introducing further information from the Bible dealing with *his* interests or by asking further thoughtful questions.

6 Begin your conversation with things that you believe are of concern to the householder, briefly showing the problem and then leading him to the Bible's solution. When he makes an observation, comment on what he says so he will know that you are listening. Your interest in his thoughts and why he feels that way will encourage him to continue conversing with you. Try to find points of agreement and stress these. Remember, in most cases you may have only a few minutes to talk. So, while you will likely not be able to agree with everything he says, it is usually better not to criticize his views quickly. Rather, keep your conversation positive by emphasizing the blessings of God's kingdom as the solution that the Bible offers for man's problems.

7 When a differing viewpoint arises, you may regard it as a matter of mutual interest. You can even say that you are glad he brought the subject up. Consider it as a key to continued conversation. If the householder is willing to reason, you might even ask, "Did you ever think of it from this standpoint?" Then, you might share a scripture that shows what God's Word says on the subject. If you find that you cannot reach him or that he is unreasonable, do not insist that he accept what you have said. Rather, it is best to conclude with a friendly comment or two, thus preparing the way for a future opportunity to present the good news to him.—Prov. 12:8, 18.

8 When you start a conversation, try to make it a pleasant experience for the householder. Insofar as it depends upon you, try to leave him with a favorable impression, if possible, a more favorable attitude toward God, his Word and his servants than before you called. In this way even if you are not successful initially in reaching his heart, he may be more receptive the next time.

9 Deep concern and a loving desire to help interested ones are important factors contributing to successful and enjoyable field activity. Continue endeavoring to reach the hearts of those you contact, looking to Jehovah to bless your efforts.—1 Cor. 3:6.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ As of February 1, 1978, a new branch office of the Society was established in the Solomon Islands.

◆ Burma reported a new peak in publishers—903 for December. It was their fourth consecutive peak this service year.

◆ Egyptian authorities in Alexandria, Egypt, arrested 30 of Jehovah's Witnesses, including children, for having a home Bible discussion. They were accused of reviving a banned religion. Others were later arrested at their homes. Visiting tourists have also been arrested and deported for having Bible literature published by the Society.

◆ Italy reached a new peak in publishers during the month of March, with 70,259 sharing in the preaching work. This is the first time they have gone over the 70,000 mark. The Memorial report also shows there is a fine potential for increase with 151,413 in attendance.

◆ In a town in Ecuador, two congregations, with 250 publishers, had a total attendance of 1,599 for the Memorial. Of these, 62 attended Memorial services conducted in a jail. A man who was studying, but not yet a Witness, was jailed. While in jail he began talking to fellow prisoners. As a result, 50 attended a Bible talk and 16 are now studying the Bible right there in jail.

Meeting Times *(Cont'd)*

it is felt that it is best to have the public meeting and the *Watchtower* study on a week-night, we want to be sure that the basis for our decision reflects our desire to give spiritual interests first place. What effect will this have on meeting attendance and field service? Is it a time when most of the interested persons could conveniently attend? (Phil. 2:4) When we plan our meetings, can we truly say that we are seeking first the Kingdom? (Matt. 6:33) As we continually "make sure of the more important things," we are assured of Jehovah's blessings. —Phil. 1:10.

4 Therefore, when selecting meeting times, consider carefully what motivates your decision. Will they benefit those associated? Will they allow for good field service arrangements week after week for individuals and family groups? If so, this is a very good thing. If not, it would be good for the elders to consider the matter with the congregation so that spiritual rather than recreational interests will be given primary consideration. Then those in your congregation will rejoice in saying, "To the house of Jehovah let us go."—Ps. 122:1.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

AUGUST 1978
Vol. 21, No. 8
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

The "Victorious Faith" International Conventions are under way! From the preliminary figures, it is apparent that many from the United States of America have been or will be visiting in other countries. For example, close to 1,500 are going to the Caribbean, and about as many to Europe. Over 3,700 made plans to go to Hawaii. Nearly 100 are going to Africa, and as many to South America. So far, about 1,200 will be going to either Mexico or Central America. Some 150 or more are scheduled to go to the Orient.

Tours to Israel have been continuing since April and on into the summer. From preliminary estimates it appears that upwards of 15,000 planned to go to Israel, with over 700 traveling from the United States and thousands from Europe. In addition to arranging a very educational tour throughout this Bible land, the brothers in Israel arranged special meetings for the benefit of their guests.

Thousands have already come from around the world to attend conventions in this country. Many of these are missionaries or others in the full-time service who have been able to return to their home country for a visit because of your generous contributions, and they wish to thank you for your kindness.

Brother F. W. Franz visited Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines in May and June. Special talks were arranged to give encouragement according to the need. In Japan, branch facilities will be expanded on a large tract of land that was purchased. The faith of our brothers in Korea and Taiwan is being severely tested because of their separateness from the world. Fine increases are taking place in Hong Kong and Japan.

We send Christian greetings to all of you.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Joy Comes in Talking About Jehovah

1 It was a command from Jehovah that his worshipers in ancient times should come before him with rejoicing. (Deut. 12:18) Why should they not rejoice and praise Jehovah in view of his rich blessings upon them?—Ps. 20:5.

2 We too have many occasions for rejoicing before Jehovah. Consider the joy that is ours in connection with large and small assemblies, in addition to the joyous refreshment of regular weekly meetings in the congregation. Daily we can rejoice because Jehovah has provided abundantly for our spiritual needs. We have the joyous hope of everlasting life by means of his Son, Jesus Christ.

3 Appreciating these gifts from God, we are moved to speak to others about him, and this increases our joy even more, since " 'there is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving.' "—Acts 20:35.

INCREASING OUR JOY IN FIELD SERVICE

4 But does opposition cause your joy to diminish? Does indifference, or not finding people at home discourage you? Perhaps you tend to be shy. Your personality may be such that it is not natural for you to approach strangers readily, even when you really want to talk about things that are dear to your heart. How can you experience the same joy that others find in preaching the good news?

5 First, remember that joy is a fruit of the spirit. It must be cultivated. Although Jehovah has promised to help you by his spirit, you must put forth effort to get the blessing. He wants you to have the joy that comes in knowing you have his favor. Our joy may be reflected in a happy countenance, but really it means much more than that—our having that deep inner feeling of well-being that comes from pleasing Jehovah in all our worship and service.

6 Consider the lives of Jesus and the early Christians. They had many hardships and sometimes painful experiences, but they had joy in abundance. For example, the apostles were taken into custody, scolded for preaching the good news and then flogged. What was their attitude? Read Acts 5:41,

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

"Now Is the Especially Acceptable Time"!

1 Yes, *NOW* is the time! Time for what? Time for sheeplike persons to be accepted into Jehovah's favor. The door is still open! The hearts of people are still being turned toward Jehovah in the time yet remaining. And Jehovah, in effect, has said to them: " 'In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you.' Look! Now is the especially acceptable time. Look! Now is the day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:2.

2 How should God's patience affect us? It should move us to do our utmost while God's "day of salvation" continues. Jesus said: "We must work the works of him that sent me while it is day." (John 9:4) So we must work while we are still "in an acceptable time" for God to hear people. Paul asks: "How . . . will they hear without someone to preach?"—Rom. 10:14.

APPRECIATE THE "ACCEPTABLE TIME"

3 How many more opportunities will your relatives, workmates, children and neighbors have to hear, as Jehovah's "acceptable time" runs out? Paul said: " 'Today if you people listen to his own voice, do not harden your hearts. . . .' " (Heb. 3:15) While these words were directed to Hebrew Christians, they should also have meaning to those now needing to hear the good news. Tomorrow may be too late for some. So we must continue to search from door to door for those whom Jehovah will yet accept and draw to himself. Jehovah, in this "day of salvation," is still allowing time for that.

4 What about people in our territory who were not at home or were busy when we called? As long as Jehovah's "day of salvation" continues, there will be further opportunity for some of these to have Jehovah's favor. Yes, working "not at homes" and making

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING JULY 30

12 min: Song 102. Discuss highlights of Branch Letter. Announcements from page 3 and local announcements.

20 min: Enjoyable Theocratic Family Projects.

(2 min:) Talk. What does your family do together that is enjoyable and relaxing, yet wholesome and beneficial? Could be damaging spiritually just to let things happen, with no planning, each one seeking out own diversion. Isn't it true, too often family ends up in front of TV? Children enjoy projects where there is parental guidance but not total domination. This permits initiative, creativeness. Project should fit age of child. Should not be allowed to get out of hand, become too expensive, time consuming.

(16 min:) Audience discussion. Why could projects, such as the following, be good for families? (1) Father goes over songs for Sunday's *Watchtower* study, helping children get full import. All sing. (2) Galatians 5:22, 23 read at breakfast table. One child prints name of "fruit" selected on card. Father has children watch for opportunities to show that fruitage throughout the day. At evening meal all give experience. Repeat each day or each week covering nine "fruits." (3) Using map, a country is selected on which to report. Children take turns telling of brothers there, customs, obstacles to witnessing, ratio of publishers. (4) Family arrange trips to museum, zoo, planetarium, park, and so forth. Relate things seen to Bible. (5) Children make scrapbook from pictures in back issues of study copies of *The Watchtower,* if these are available. Learn to explain pictures to parents. (6) Select various features of "sign" of "time of the end." Children collect news items as proof and store in labeled boxes. (7) Family shares project to help with future trade or homemaking, such as carpentry, cabinetmaking, auto repair, cooking, dressmaking, and so forth.

(2 min:) Summarize by highlighting importance of doing wholesome things together as a family.—Ps. 127:3-5.

28 min: Talk, with some audience discussion, on article "Joy Comes in Talking About Jehovah." Use 10 minutes to discuss and demonstrate how suggested Topic for Conversation might be used effectively in presenting offer of older books as outlined under Announcements. Also mention alternative offer of any pocket-size book for contribution of 35c. Song 101 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 6

12 min: Song 70. Theocratic News, including brief comments on local accomplishments. Local announcements.

30 min: This time is allotted for use in reviewing highlights of international convention, if congregation attended one in July or first part of August. Otherwise, time can be devoted to discussing local needs of congregation.

18 min: "Now Is the Especially Acceptable Time"! Audience discussion of article on page 1. Conclude by encouraging all to share in the service arrangements over the weekend. Song 66 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 13

18 min: Song 52. Family discusses article "Circuit Assemblies Supply What We Need." Father discusses with family what they have done to apply what they learned from past program, thus building anticipation for coming program. Include local announcements and accounts report.

25 min: "By Their Fruits You Will Recognize Them."

(3 min:) Jesus set forth principle that person is identified by attitude and conduct—fruitage produced in his life. (Matt. 7:15-20) His disciples are to be identified by the love they manifest toward one another.—John 13:35.

(20 min:) Audience discussion. Ask audience to give spontaneous expressions on how they would define the attitudes and types of conduct mentioned in the Bible as outlined below. The first Scripture text after each word gives an instance where word is mentioned in Bible; the second gives contrasting quality. As time allows, Scriptural examples and suggestions may be given to indicate how wrong attitude or conduct may be avoided or overcome. (One handling part must be familiar with Bible texts used and be able to explain meaning of words. Discuss those that may be most helpful to your congregation. You may be able to cover only three or four.)

Anxiety (Mark 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:8); Contentiousness (Jas. 3:14-16; Rom. 12:18); Egotism (Gal. 5:26; Phil. 2:3); Laziness (Prov. 21:25; Rom. 12:11); Revelries (Rom. 13:13; Phil. 4:8).

Chastity (2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:5); Encouragement (Rom. 1:11, 12; 1 Cor. 10:10); Hospitality (1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13:5); Reasonableness (Phil. 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:15).

(2 min:) Conclude with brief discussion of Galatians 5:22-24, emphasizing need to give holy spirit free flow in our lives so as to be pleasing to God.

17 min: "What Draws You to God?" Talk based on article in May 15, 1978, issue of *The Watchtower*. Song 82 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 20

15 min: Song 74. Local announcements. Talk on article "Are You *Lovingly* Interested in People?" in July 22, 1978, issue of *Awake!*

25 min: Looking Ahead to the New Service Year.

(5 min:) Talk. Reflecting on the service year just ending, it is appropriate to ask: "How much have I grown spiritually during the year? What was I able to accomplish?" Perhaps you set some personal goals by which to measure your spiritual progress. What were the results?

(15 min:) Interview publishers who made some noticeable progress during service year. Suggestions: Ones who started pioneering, shared in auxiliary pioneer service, started Bible study, progressed to baptism, enrolled in Theocratic School, started going from house to house, started commenting at meetings, improved meeting preparation, conducted regular family study, improved shepherding work (on part of elder), and so forth. Get comments from group on following points: Did you accomplish all you projected for yourselves during the year? What obstacles got in the way? What encouragement can you offer others as to the value of setting personal goals? (Make suggestions practical, realistic.)

(5 min:) Summarize by pointing out the value of having personal goals. They can be an aid to progressive spiritual improvement, but should not cause discouragement or the feeling that Jehovah is never satisfied with our progress. Additional suggested goals: Keeping up with Bible reading in Theocratic School; becoming more effective in using Bible to give a witness; participating regularly in field service; attending all meetings and commenting; fellowshiping more, before and after meetings, and so forth. (May suggest other goals that represent points needing attention in your congregation.)

20 min: Audience discussion on need for endurance, using following references: Heb. 10:36; 12:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Jas. 1:2-4, 12; Luke 21:19. Song 63 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 27

18 min: Song 79. Field overseer reviews with audience service arrangements of congregation: weekend; midweek; evening. May wish to get comments from audience to see if arrangements might be better supported if adjusted. Discuss benefits of supporting group arrangements; also, what arrangements the elders and ministerial servants have made to give loving assistance to those who need some help in becoming better proclaimers of the good news. Include local announcements.

25 min: Problems Children Face in School. If possible, assign to mature father getting good results with children.

(5 min:) Talk. In starting to school soon, our children will be spending many hours each day in the presence of worldly children. This sometimes brings problems, temptations. How can we parents, elders and others help them to face these successfully? How can children fortify themselves spiritually?

(17 min:) Elder interviews group made up of two families with school-age children. (Rehearse ahead of time. If another problem prevails in your area, may substitute.) (1) When schoolmates ridicule us as Jehovah's Witnesses, what should we do? Is this persecution? How would recalling Jesus' words at Matthew 5:10-12 help? How are we protected by letting students know that we are one of Jehovah's Witnesses right from the start? What may help ridiculers to have more respect for us? Are we losing anything if we don't gain friendship of ridiculers? (Prov. 17:17) How will ridiculers react if they see they are provoking us? If they see it doesn't bother us? What could it lead to if we give in when ridiculed? What outcome does the Bible foretell for ridiculers? (2 Pet. 3:3, 7) (2) Use of drugs and tobacco. Is it a problem where you attend school? Why would other children want to get you started on drugs? Could we give any Bible principles that would be violated by the use of drugs, including tobacco? (2 Cor. 7:1; Matt. 22:39; 1 Pet. 1:13; Mark 15:23) So how would God feel about one of his servants taking drugs or smoking? (3) Maintaining neutrality. What is done in your school that tests a Christian's neutrality? What is the strongest reason you can think of to remain neutral? (Ex. 20:4, 5; John 17:16; 18:36)

(3 min:) Conclude with brief exhortation for youth to remain faithful. Jehovah will help them and reward them for their faithfulness, just as he also holds them responsible for their conduct.—Eccl. 11:9, 10.

17 min: "Presenting the Good News—With the *Youth* Book in September." Demonstrate suggested presentations for offering the *Youth* book. Discuss how these can be adapted to your territory. Song 51 and prayer.

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Circuit Assemblies Supply What We Need

1 Do you find that assemblies are like theocratic milestones? It is always good to look forward to them and the benefits they bring. They fill a special need for God's people. Do you recall how you were especially benefited by the last circuit assembly program? Perhaps you were impressed by the suggestions given on the theme, "Do All Things for the Sake of the Good News," and resolved to increase your opportunities to share the good news with others. And, do you remember the counsel and demonstrations on keeping the spirit of the world out of the congregation? And what our conduct should be like in attending assemblies? Were you more alert to the need to set a good example in conduct at the international assembly you attended?

2 Another circuit assembly program has been arranged to meet special needs, and this will begin in September. You will not want to miss it. Its theme is: " 'Rendering Sacred Service' with Loyalty." What are some program features? Instead of the regular Theocratic School, there will be discussions on how the school has benefited Jehovah's people, and how we can get the most out of it. Also, there will be interviews with those who have served Jehovah loyally for many years. A special part for young folks will give suggestions on how they can show their loyalty and devotion today. There are particular pressures and problems with which we are all faced today, and you will find the suggestions given on the program of much value in coping with these. Be sure to attend all sessions of your next circuit assembly in order to receive the special benefits in store for you.

Announcements

● Literature offer for August: Three books for 70c. Should include two 384- or 416-page books and one pocket-size book. The following older books may be used in this offer: *"Your Will Be Done on Earth"* (other than latest printing; see below); *Life Everlasting—in Freedom of the Sons of God; "Then Is Finished the Mystery of God"; "The Nations Shall Know that I Am Jehovah"—How?; Paradise Restored to Mankind—By Theocracy!; God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached; Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand!; Did Man Get Here by Evolution or by Creation?; God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good* and *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* The Society has a supply of the *Man's Salvation, Know Jehovah* and *"Eternal Purpose"* books that can be ordered. Alternative offer, any pocket-size book for 35c. Offer for September: *Youth* book for 35c; *Great Teacher* book or other pocket-size book may be offered where circumstances make it more appropriate.

● The 384- and 416-page books mentioned above may be obtained by publishers for use in the special offer in August for 15c each. Congregations may request 30c credit for each of these books. (Pioneers may obtain them at the regular rate.) For details, see Announcements in January 1978 *Our Kingdom Service*.

● Additional copies of the October 8 *Awake!* and the October 15 *Watchtower*, which will be special issues, should be ordered early to insure delivery. It is suggested that they be ordered by the end of August.

● A year's supply of forms for use by the congregation will be sent to the congregation's secretary early in August, including a sheet of instructions on properly using and ordering these in the future. Pioneer report cards should not be ordered as they will be sent to the secretary according to the number of pioneers.

Literature Inventory forms will be included with the July statement. The secretary can alert those handling literature, magazines and accounts as to what will be required by the end of August so that the report can be completed and the original mailed to the Society no later than September 6.

● Two slips (S-10) for reporting the congregation's activity for the past service year were mailed in July and should be completed by the secretary. The original should be returned to the Society with the September monthly report, and the duplicate copy retained for the congregation's files.

● Old monthly report cards for congregations and pioneers should be used up before beginning to use the revised ones. At the bottom, the words "presiding overseer" can be changed to "secretary," since the latter will now be signing the card.

● The Society now has a supply of the question booklet for the book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* available in Grade-2 English Braille. A free copy may be obtained by submitting a written request to the Society, Attention: Braille Desk. This booklet is not to be stocked by the congregation.

● The Society has produced a limited reprinting of the book *"Your Will Be Done on Earth"* on a better grade of paper. This edition of the book should not be used in any offers at the reduced rate for older books.

● Beginning September 3, all circuit overseers will be presenting a slide program entitled "A Close Look at the Churches." District overseers will be giving the talk "Meeting the Test of Christian Loyalty."

● New Publications Available:

Holy Bible —Tagalog (Prices: Pioneer, $1.50; Congregation, $2.40; Public, $2.50.)

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (Large print edition) —Portuguese

Listening to the Great Teacher —Hungarian

Bible Topics for Discussion —German, Spanish

Is There a God Who Cares? —Norwegian, Polish

Adjustment Affecting Rotation of Elders

As announced at the international conventions this summer, there will be a further adjustment in the congregation arrangement for elders. Starting with the 1979 service year (September 1, 1978), rotation will take place only with respect to the position of presiding overseer. There will be no rotation with regard to the positions of field overseer and Bible study overseer.

This means that, for the present, elders who are currently serving as field overseer and Bible study overseer will continue in these positions until further notice. Details will be provided in the near future regarding the arrangement for each body of elders to select and recommend certain elders to serve continuously in caring for various matters.

As to rotating into the position of presiding overseer in September 1978, it may well be that the person next in line to serve as presiding overseer, no matter what position he holds now, can continue to serve in his present capacity temporarily and also serve as presiding overseer. If an elder feels he is not in a position to serve as presiding overseer due to health or other reasons, then the next one in line will be given the opportunity.

So, at their meeting in the first part of September, the body of elders should determine who should rotate into the position of presiding overseer, but all other elders should remain in their present positions, awaiting further direction. Such direction will be given in due time, so it will not be necessary to write or phone the Society about this matter.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	636	130.3	44.3	4.5	87.0
Pios.	13,699	89.2	31.4	3.4	59.5
Aux. Pios.	21,897	60.2	16.0	1.3	34.2
Pubs.	489,765	8.9	3.1	.4	7.2
TOTAL	525,997				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,977

MEMORIAL REPORT

	1978	1977
Total Attendance	1,264,420	1,270,172
Number of Partakers	4,308	4,363

Schedule for the congregation book studies in *Word of God* book:

August 6:	Pages 82 to 89
August 13:	Pages 90 to 97*
August 20:	Pages 97 to 102
August 27:	Pages 103 to 109*

* To subheading.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

With the "Youth" Book in September

1 The Bible indicates that the "last days" would have an adverse effect on the family unit. (2 Tim. 3:1-4; Rev. 12:12) Even theocratic families often find it a real challenge to bring up children in the faith, isn't that so? We can be sure that many families in the world are floundering and in need of help. No doubt thousands will appreciate the help extended to them during September as we offer the book *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It.*

2 Often young people answer the door when we call. Many in their teens appreciate it when we engage them in a conversation. And when we treat them with respect, not "talking down" to them, they often respond favorably. You might say: "I am glad to have the opportunity to speak to you because I would like to get the viewpoint of a younger person. God said something in the Bible that is especially directed to young people like yourself. [Read Ecclesiastes 12:1.] It shows that we must remember God in our youth if we want a happy future. Do you feel that a young person should be interested in God, our Creator? Does this have anything to do with our being happy? [Allow for response.] Let me show you a comment made in this book." Turn to page 191, paragraph 15 and read the first two sentences. Then turn back to the table of contents and point out a few of the subjects on which young ones want frank comments and help. Offer *Youth* book for 35c. This suggested presentation may work for you, or you may have another that you prefer to use.

3 Some publishers have had good success by offering the *Youth* book to young folks as they go to and from school. It could be done much the same as magazine street work by displaying the book and speaking to passersby. Also, teachers and administrative personnel at schools can be approached. Of course, children in school have many opportunities to witness to fellow students and teachers. For example, a young witness at school in the Dominican Republic left a copy of the *Youth* book on his desk, which excited the interest of students and teachers as they would see it. The result? He placed 75 *Youth* books in two months.

4 What if grown-ups or even elderly persons come to the door? Most people have children, nieces, nephews or grandchildren who mean a great deal to them. In addition to suggesting that they may wish to read the book themselves, we could tactfully suggest that they obtain it as a gift for young relatives.

5 In addition, carry a *Great Teacher* book with you during September and offer it where small children are involved. There may be cases when you may wish to offer the *Youth* book and the *Great Teacher* book in combination for 70c, such as when there are very young children and those in their teens in the home. Our desire is to *help people* of all ages, and the literature is a means to this end. So during September you may feel free to use any pocket-size publication that you feel would be most beneficial to the householder. But, wherever possible, let us help young people and families to counteract the influence of Satan the Devil on family life. It has been proven that the information in the *Youth* book, when applied, can do just that. Let it help you to present the good news in September.

'Now Is the Acceptable Time'! (*Cont'd*)

a concerted effort to search out every deserving one are still highly important.—Matt. 10:11.

USE INFORMAL WITNESSING

5 Are you alert to opportunities to witness informally? It is having something in common with a person that often provides just the opportunity for "a word spoken at the right time." (Prov. 25:11) It may be easy to start a conversation with a neighbor, workmate or relative and then turn it toward the truth. For many, vacation time is an especially good time for informal witnessing. We may visit loved ones whom we see no other time of the year. A few 'words at the right time' could bring a favorable response.

6 Let us not forget the silent witness we give. Yes, our conduct at all times should adorn the truth, recommending it to others. After discussing Jehovah's "acceptable time," Paul's next words were: "In no way are we giving any cause for stumbling . . . but in every way we recommend ourselves as God's ministers." (2 Cor. 6:3, 4) May Jehovah bless our efforts to help others see that *NOW* is the "especially acceptable time" for salvation!

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ A number of congregations had a fine response to the auxiliary pioneer service during the spring months. For example, the Bradley Beach, New Jersey, Congregation, with 133 publishers associated, had 62 auxiliary pioneers in April. Their circuit overseer reports that the elders and ministerial servants organized meetings for service throughout each day and in the evenings so that all would have companionship, and all enjoyed a happy month in Jehovah's service.

◆ During March, Togo reported a new peak of 2,660 publishers. This is a fine report from this small West African country.

◆ Despite continued turmoil in the land, Cyprus reported a new peak in March of 878 publishers.

◆ February saw the third time this service year that Luxembourg reached a new peak in publishers, with 859 reporting. Home Bible studies also reached a new peak, with 573 being conducted.

◆ The African country of Mali reached a new peak, with 35 publishers reporting. Congregation publishers averaged 21.5 hours and conducted 55 home Bible studies.

◆ At Watchtower Farms, 111 of the 630 members of the family shared in the auxiliary pioneer work in April. The family rejoiced that so many of their number could enjoy this privilege.

Joy in Talking About Jehovah (*Cont'd*)

42. When Jesus sent out the seventy disciples, likely some were apprehensive, but they "returned with joy" and related their experiences.—Luke 10:17.

7 Such joy can be yours also when you succeed in getting someone to listen to your presentation of the good news. If someone agrees to study the Bible with you, or responds to your invitation to attend Christian meetings, your heart will indeed rejoice. The apostle Paul expressed his joy in those he had helped in spite of much difficulty and under the most trying circumstances.—1 Thess. 2:9, 19, 20.

8 Yes, joy does indeed come from talking about Jehovah. The planting, watering and cultivating of the seeds of truth may require much effort on your part, but the good results that come from talking about Jehovah are bound to bring you joy.—Ps. 126:5, 6.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Is there any future for the upright? —Prov. 2:21, 22.

1. Upright receive blessings now and in the future.
2. God promises to destroy wicked.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 1978
Vol. 21, No. 9
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

At the "Victorious Faith" International Convention, we were delighted to receive still another provision designed to increase the understanding and spread of the Kingdom message. In the past, many have inquired about recorded Bible readings from the *New World Translation*. We were pleased to learn that cassette tape recordings of the Gospel of John have been produced and are now available for our use. Why was John's Gospel selected? It is filled with the comforting words of Jesus that warm the heart and prompt us to draw closer to Jehovah. It is understandable that this is the most widely distributed portion of the Christian Greek Scriptures.

How can these recordings be used? All of us are sure to enjoy and benefit from hearing God's Word read with force and meaning. Those confined to a sickbed or who are in a hospital will especially appreciate them. Blind persons, as well as those with limited reading ability, will be able to put them to good use. Undoubtedly you will find that they can be used with good results in a variety of other situations.

Bear in mind that these tapes are copyrighted. Any commercial or profit-making duplication or distribution would be an infringement of the copyright. This would not necessarily apply to making a copy for personal use.

Cassette recordings of *The Good News According to John* should be ordered through the congregation. Special order blanks have been sent to each congregation with the August statement. Please do not send any remittance with the order. The recordings will be charged to your congregation's literature account. The price is $3.00 per set. For pioneers, the rate is $2.50. Use this means to build appreciation for the Bible.

We send our Christian love.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

'Always Have Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord'

¹ All of us have plenty to do every day. Each day we are confronted with many responsibilities, all vying for our time. The demands of the family and secular jobs may be enough to keep us occupied. Added to that we would like to reach out for a full share in the activities of the congregation, including meetings, personal study and participation in the disciple-making work. Sometimes we may get discouraged, feeling we are unable to do justice to each responsibility.

² But, having a very busy schedule is not something new for God's servants. The apostle Paul implied that he had a very busy schedule when he spoke of anxiety for the congregations that "rushes in on me from day to day." (2 Cor. 11:28) Yet he always viewed things positively, discerning with appreciation the underlying benefits. That appreciation moved him to admonish his brothers 'always to have plenty to do in the work of the Lord.'—1 Cor. 15:58.

³ It is also good for us to view things in a positive way. Being kept busy in Kingdom activity serves as a protection. There is danger in being "unoccupied." (1 Tim. 5:13) Idleness is a fertile ground for the seeds of complaint and complacency. We are urged to keep our "minds on maintaining fine works." (Titus 3:8) Individuals busily engaged in worthwhile activities rarely have time to pursue worthless things, harbor resentment, worry about their mistakes, or get involved in wrong conduct.

⁴ Having plenty to do also protects the congregation. At times, individuals whose motives are not good will associate with the Christian congregation. But anyone who is insincere or has a wrong motive will not tarry long where there is much good work to be done. This safeguards the congregation, helping to assure that those within are wholehearted. It also helps us individually to grow stronger spiritually by exercising and developing our thinking abilities and powers of reason.—Heb. 5:14.

⁵ Always having plenty to do teaches us some vital lessons. Assignments to aid others remind us to think of them and their needs ahead of our own. A willingness to accept responsibility and follow

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

Those 'Acquiring a Fine Standing'

¹ Regarding ministerial servants, Paul wrote: "For the men who minister in a fine manner *are* acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 3:13) The apostle was thus explaining, not a prerequisite for being a ministerial servant, but the benefits when such a brother does minister or carry out his duties in a fine manner.

² The Bible sets high standards for a ministerial servant. (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12) Brothers recommended should clearly be meeting these. Becoming a ministerial servant is no routine thing; it is not as if almost every adult, baptized male should have the position as a sort of titleholder. Ministerial servants should be exemplary, spiritual men.

³ Acts 6:1-6 illustrates what should be true of such men. (*ad* pp. 1162, 1163) So as to concentrate on the Word, the apostles needed assistance in caring for duties that were *important,* but that could be handled by other qualified men. They selected men "full of spirit and wisdom." Hence, they would be worthy of the congregation's confidence. Their selection was not just to take care of some menial task or to encourage them; it was a privilege by means of which they could work hard in serving the congregation.

⁴ Ministerial servants today help to care for many necessary duties involving the Kingdom Hall, distribution of supplies, and assisting elders with record keeping and accounts. In this way they work in behalf of their brothers and sisters. If they appreciate that this is what they are doing, they will be conscientious in fulfilling their responsibilities. Rather than being casual about showing up to care for assigned duties, they will be *dependable* week after week. In fact, if something beyond their control interferes with their being on time or handling their assignment, men of their spiritual stature can be counted on to make alternate arrangements. They will be concerned that the congregation is not left in the lurch. The congre-

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 3

Theme: Youth—Firmly Establish Your Way.—Prov. 4:26.

20 min: Song 73. Local announcements.

Safeguard Your Heart. Audience discussion of Proverbs chapter 4. Ask several young persons to read verses. Discuss questions with audience. (Vss. 1, 2) What kind of attitude should young people have toward their parents? Why? (Vss. 3-6) What are the benefits of listening to advice of parents who are older and more experienced? (Vss. 7-9) How can a young person demonstrate wisdom? (Vss. 20-23) How can you guard your heart and why is it so important? (Vss. 24-27) What kinds of bad conduct will you avoid if you firmly establish your way? (Invite young people to relate experiences where they did apply good counsel and it turned out well.)

20 min: Do You Understand Why? Audience discussion dealing with questions that concern young people. Questions should be directed toward parents and older ones, asking them kindly to explain why certain counsel is given. Try to help young people look beyond rules and appreciate why it is wise for them to listen. Strive to be positive, helpful; avoid being critical.

Chairman: Some young people become resentful toward parents, teachers and others in authority, feeling that they are restricted in many areas *without good reason. Result: resistance* to counsel and a communication gap. How can we help them understand why guidelines are established to regulate their conduct? How would you answer these questions?

(1) It is common to see use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs at schools and other places. Why are parents so concerned when they hear about such things? (2 Cor. 7:1; Prov. 23:20, 21) *(2) Young people have a need for recreation.* Why are they advised to avoid many forms of entertainment and sports? (1 Tim. 4:8; Phil. 4:8) (3) Music and dancing have been a part of every culture all the way back to Bible times. Why so much apprehension about what is popular now? (Jas. 1:14, 15; 1 Pet. 1:14-16) (4) They enjoy the company of others their own age. Why are some restrictions made about their association together? (1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20) (5) Why do you encourage them to have a full share in the activities of the congregation and consider the possibility of taking up the pioneer service?—Eccl. 12:1; 1 Tim. 6:18, 19.

20 min: God's Word Can Help You to Make Wise Decisions. (Ps. 19:7) Discussion between elder and group of young people on platform. Group comments on following questions using Scriptural guidelines provided in *Youth* book: (1) What Bible principles can help determine the kind of dress and grooming that is proper for you? (Chap. 7) (2) What viewpoint will help you to avoid feeling resentment toward parents? (Chap. 10) (3) What are some good reasons for applying yourself in school? (Chap. 11) (4) What advantages are there in delaying plans for marriage beyond the *teen-age years? (Chap. 20) (5) How* important should money and material things be in your plans for the future? (Chap. 21) (6) How is a knowledge of the truth a big advantage in deciding your goals for the future? (Chap. 23) (7) In what ways will your good conduct eventually be rewarded? (Chap. 24) Mention that some of these points highlighted from *Youth* book may be helpful when offering this publication in the field this month.

Conclude with warm encouragement, expressing appreciation for youth in our midst. Song 19 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 10

Theme: 'Always Have Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord.'—1 Cor. 15:58.

10 min: Song 89. Local announcements. Accounts report. Highlights of Branch Letter.

15 min: " 'Always Have Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord.' " Audience discussion of article. Invite some to express themselves about their busy schedule and what it takes to keep up. Review what can be learned from Paul's example. Get comments on why much activity serves a useful purpose and how this should affect our attitude toward a busy schedule.

15 min: "*Enjoying Organized Service.*" Talk by study conductor on article. Briefly review and demonstrate Topic for Conversation.

20 min: "Those 'Acquiring a Fine Standing.' " A group of ministerial servants on platform discuss this article with an elder. Each one expresses appreciation for having plenty to do and comments on how they as a group can be of greater service to their brothers. Song 7 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 17

Theme: Imitate the "God of All Comfort."—2 Cor. 1:3.

12 min: Song 34. Local announcements. Talk on Jehovah's being a "God of all comfort." (2 Cor. 1:3) Creation shows he is concerned about well-being of all persons. Also, record of his *dealings provides comfort, assuring us* that we are not alone or without hope. (Rom. 15:4, 5) Jesus promised comfort to those mourning over wickedness of present system and who acknowledge own sinfulness and seek forgiveness. (Matt. 5:4) Will we imitate Jehovah by comforting others?

28 min: "Keep Comforting One Another." Audience discussion. All of us can be a comfort to one another. Paul *comforted his brothers, aiding them to* be faithful. (1 Thess. 2:11, 12) We should do likewise. (1 Thess. 5:11) What would you say or do in these cases?

(1) Sister's unbelieving husband makes it hard for her to get to meetings or to share in field service. (2) Young person is discouraged over being different from schoolmates. (3) Older Witness has less strength and often is ill. (Heb. 6:10) (4) Brother has become downhearted after being counseled. (Heb. 12:5, 11) (5) Brother is disheartened by pressure on job to ignore his conscience. (Heb. 13:5, 6, 18) (6) Single or widowed person would like to marry but unable to find suitable Christian mate.—1 Cor. 7:28.

When we see such situations, are we genuinely concerned? When was the last time we sought to comfort and upbuild family member or fellow Witness needing consolation or encouragement? Good to imitate Jehovah in doing so.—2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

20 min: Comforting Others Brings Fine Results. Talk, with audience comments and perhaps interviews. Christians do not comfort only other Witnesses. Proclaiming good news includes sharing comforting message, as did Jesus. (Isa. 61:2; Luke 4:16-21) Have not many householders mentioned to you troubles or problems they have or their grief over the decline of morals? Here are opportunities to comfort from God's Word.

What would you do if householder says that family member recently died? Need to be discerning and tactful. Some comforting Bible verses may open the way for a further witness later. (John 11:19, 31) Any experiences of this type? What did you say? What was the response?

Interview some in congregation, or invite audience to relate experiences: (1) How they may have responded to truth because of being given comfort, or how they were aided to make progress by comforting encouragement received. (2) Joy they have had in comforting others (Witnesses or not) and beneficial result of doing so. Song 40 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 24

Theme: Do I Appreciate What Jehovah Is Doing for Me?

10 min: Song 31. Local announcements. Talk. Thoughtful Christians realize that we benefit from what God has done for all mankind. We have life from him. (Acts 17:26-28) He provided earth with much that makes living possible and enjoyable. (*lp* pp. 10-22) But what about the many things he does for *us personally?*

20 min: God's Special Provisions for You. Discussion. Invite audience to comment on and to relate personal experiences regarding: (1) How each of the following is something special that God has done for us. (2) How we can benefit the most from what he is doing.

(1) *A purpose and hope—making life* more satisfying. (2) Explanations that resolved questions we had, or Bible counsel that makes life more peaceful and meaningful. (3) Elders as "gifts in men." (4) Training for more effectiveness and pleasure in field service. (5) Brothers and sisters who will help if we have difficulties.

Appreciation for what God has done aids us to avoid becoming critical, uncooperative or complacent and it draws us closer to him.—Ps. 92:1, 2.

12 min: Jehovah Helps Us to Develop New Personalities. Interviews. By his spirit and Word, God helps us to change to new personality. (Eph. 4:22-24) We sense need for more progress, yet we probably recognize that we already have come a long way.

Interview some who formerly had old personality traits such as bad temper, *tendency to jealousy, being withdrawn,* or too pushy. How did they recognize need to work on that weakness? What did they do? Did they meet obstacles difficult to overcome? How do they feel now in looking back on old personality? Contrast present joy and peace with former problems and uncertainties.

18 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Being a Good Listener." Ques*tions and answers. Conclude with com*ments about *Awake!* subscription offer that starts Sunday, encouraging all to apply foregoing suggestions in starting conversations. Ask all to bring October 8 *Awake!* to next service meeting. Song 43 and prayer.

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Enjoying Organized Service

1 A Bible principle that should mean much to a book study group and its conductor is that stated at 1 Corinthians 14:40: "Let all things take place decently and by arrangement." This principle, when applied, makes for joyful, productive service.

2 As publishers, we appreciate it when the conductor follows this principle. One thing the group will need is territory. So the conductor should plan in advance how the territory can best be worked. Will there be enough for the group? If territory is not nearby, could the group meet earlier or even in the territory? Will safety require publishers to work in groups or pairs? Dividing up the assignment can be done "by arrangement" with brothers assisting in taking groups to different parts of the territory. In this way, the publishers will not create a scene by congregating on a street corner. The conductor wants things to be done "decently."

3 Does your book study group organize for service right after the Sunday meetings or meet again later? Or do you meet at the book study location either Sunday morning or afternoon? These are arrangements that can be worked out locally, but it is important for all to know clearly what the arrangements are.

4 Another thing that can contribute to effective, organized service is when the conductor arranges to work with us from door to door. As we observe how he handles matters at the door or on a return visit, possibly we can see ways to improve our own service. We appreciate his suggestions and observations. And do not words of commendation move us to greater zeal? By making appointments in advance and working with even one or two each week, he may be able to work with all in the group during a period of a few months. He can be alert, too, to enlist the help of his assistant and others, perhaps aiding them to make appointments to assist others. He must be a good organizer, because "when there is no skillful direction, the people fall."—Prov. 11:14.

5 Are you personally supporting the arrangements in your group? If we wait until Saturday or Sunday morning to make our decision about field service, might the Adversary help influence our decision? Sticking to a regular schedule for service will let "things take place decently and by arrangement."

6 When you reach the first house in the territory, are you really ready to knock on the door? Have you organized things? What about your book bag? Are Bible, books and magazines arranged neatly? Do you have a pencil? Subscription slips? Do you keep a House-to-House Record so you can call back on interested ones? Thoughtful organization will contribute to a more productive and joyful day in service.

7 Jehovah has foreseen the needs of the people of this generation. Their greatest need is to have the truth. He has given us the privilege of declaring his truths to mankind. Our enjoyment and effectiveness in doing this will be greatly increased by organized service in our book study groups, doing everything "decently and by arrangement."

Convention News

The "Victorious Faith" International Conventions got off to a good start in June with a total attendance of 600,489 for the public lecture at 14 conventions. There were 3,856 baptized. At Montreal, in Canada, July 5-9, the peak attendance was 80,008, and 831 were baptized.

The convention program was enthusiastically received. The overall spiritual provision has been described as "most faith strengthening." Many expressed appreciation for the way field service was stressed. "It is a call to action," observed one brother. Another remarked: "It has really gotten to the hearts of the brothers. We will see . . . a more serious view of service—and this is the time for it."

On Friday morning thousands shared in field activity, using the special kits, which attracted much attention. One report said: "People knew Jehovah's Witnesses were in town." It was exciting to participate in the well-organized campaign. Kingdom publishers appeared like a swarm of locusts as they covered residential territory, did street work and called on persons in offices and stores. In several places, news reporters accompanied brothers in the door-to-door activity, and they wrote interesting reports.

And what about the conduct of the conventioners? Time and again brothers were impressed with the attentiveness of the audiences, the way families stayed together and the fine behavior of children. Compared with past assemblies, fewer persons worked during sessions and there was less milling around. All this contributed toward the orderliness of the conventions. "One thing that impressed me," an elder said, "was the lack of movement and restless running around. Everybody was sitting and listening. It was a real joy to be there and concentrate on the outstanding program." Outsiders, including hotel managers and stadium personnel, commented on the orderly way conventioners conducted themselves.

So many reports being received tell about the benefits resulting from applying the counsel and reminders given prior to the conventions. Surely, this pleases Jehovah. This is evident by the outpouring of his rich blessings. May we all continue to 'maintain our conduct fine among the nations,' as we now press ahead with the same spirit in the field service as was shown at the international conventions.—1 Pet. 2:12.

Announcements

- The September 8, 1978, issue of *Awake!* will contain an interesting report based on the November distribution of the *Blood* booklet. It is a fine issue to leave with your own doctor because it presents the favorable response of many doctors, lawyers and judges, which may have a wholesome effect on your own doctor.
- The September 22 *Awake!* reports on persecution of our brothers in Argentina. Further information is contained in a special letter to all congregations. We encourage everyone to write one or more letters to Argentine officials.
- Literature offer for September: *Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It* for 35c. May also use *Listening to the Great Teacher* or any other pocket-size book. October: *Awake!* subscription for $2.00 with any 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers. Brooklyn still has a supply of the books *Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand!* and *"The Nations Shall Know that I Am Jehovah"—How?* that may be ordered. Credit for such free books given to new subscribers may be requested as in the previous campaign with similar offer. November: Tract distribution.
- Congregation accounts should be audited on September 1, or as soon thereafter as possible, by the presiding overseer or someone appointed by him.
- New Publications Available:
  - *Life Does Have a Purpose* —Japanese, Korean, Norwegian
  - *Making Your Family Life Happy* —English, Finnish, Spanish
  - *My Book of Bible Stories* —English, German
  - *Jehovah's Witnesses and the Question of Blood* —Greek, Korean
  - *Unseen Spirits—Do They Help Us? Or Do They Harm Us?* —English, Spanish
  - *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* —English, French, Spanish
  - *The Good News According to John* (Cassette recordings) —English, French, Spanish
- When ordering the *1979 Yearbook*, publishers and pioneers are requested to do so through the congregation. Orders for the *Yearbook* in the following languages may be placed after the dates here listed. November 1: English. November 15: French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish. February 1: Dutch, German, Korean. PAYMENT SHOULD NOT ACCOMPANY ORDERS. Congregation account will be charged at rate of 50 cents each for publishers. Regular and special pioneers on the list before July 1, 1978, may receive a free copy for which the congregation may request credit. Pioneers may obtain additional copies at 15 cents each.
- During their meeting in September, elders should review any needs for repair or decoration of the Kingdom Hall in harmony with guidelines in May 1976, *Our Kingdom Service*. Results on this meeting will be discussed with congregation in October 8 service meeting.
- Copies of the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* should be reported as booklets when placed by the publishers in the field or when provided to groups or organizations by the congregation.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

'Remember God in Your Youth.'—Eccl. 12:1, 13.

1. **Vital to know and remember Him.**
2. **Fulfilling this obligation assures happy future.**

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Being a Good Listener

1 In the July issue of *Our Kingdom Service,* the importance of developing conversations with householders was considered. We hope that you have tried some of the suggestions offered, with good results. In doing so, very likely you have come to appreciate the need to be a good listener.

2 A willingness to listen is an evidence of sincere interest. People respond to that. Hence, it is good to be "swift about hearing." (Jas. 1:19) Listening carefully helps us to know what to say and how to say it. Our interest in what is said can prompt a householder to say more, giving further opportunity to witness more effectively.

3 Listening means more than just hearing with our ears. It means paying attention with a genuine interest in the welfare of the speaker. It calls for a display of unselfishness, kindness, patience and self-control. (Gal. 5:22, 23) Besides the words, note the tone of voice. Is the speaker happy or depressed, pleased or angry, proud or humble?

4 Many householders are somewhat reserved or skeptical when we try to converse with them at the door. Use of tactful, friendly questions is one of the best means to encourage them to express themselves. When they comment, always look for points of agreement and try to build on that rather than taking exception. to some wrong view.

5 Sometimes we are prone to talk too much and to "preach" to people. Even if we ask questions, the tendency is not to listen to the reply when we have a prepared presentation in mind. Subconsciously we may be afraid that if we stop, the householder will lose interest and turn away. Have you felt that way? It is good to remember that a warm conversation is far more appealing than a cut-and-dried "sermon."—Eccl. 3:7.

6 Being a good listener is a help in making return visits and conducting Bible studies. People like to be treated with respect and given personal attention. When they comment we can ask ourselves: Does he really understand? Is he using good reasoning? Does he grasp what the Bible says and believe it? What you are able to learn as a careful listener may determine your success as a teacher.

7 Due to increasing pressures of this generation, interested persons are often burdened with many problems. They become depressed and need encouragement. A listening ear sometimes does wonders for another's spirit. While we must be careful not to pry into their personal affairs, or make decisions for them, we can show ourselves to be a true friend who wants to help.—Prov. 18:24.

8 So, to be a good teacher, one must be a good listener. We can appreciate why Jesus advised his disciples to "pay attention to how you listen." (Luke 8:18) If we listen, others may listen to us and save their lives.—1 Tim. 4:16.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ The small European country of Liechtenstein reports a new peak of 25 publishers. The one congregation there also had 57 in attendance at the Memorial.

◆ A new branch office was established in Iran on June 1, 1978. They reported a new peak of 69 publishers for May.

◆ Upper Volta reported a publisher peak of 100 for May—their sixth consecutive peak. This is a 43 percent increase over last May.

◆ Japan reported another peak of 44,646 for May. Twenty-seven percent of the total publishers shared in some field of pioneer service that month.

◆ Liberia reported a new peak of 1,119 publishers for May, with 1,456 Bible studies reported—their highest number of Bible studies yet.

'Always Have Plenty to Do' *(Cont'd)* direction helps us to learn the meaning of humility. Working side by side with others provides valuable lessons in patience and brotherly love. Sticking with a job to its completion teaches us to be faithful and to appreciate the value of endurance, as well as reminds us that we must exert ourselves "vigorously" if we are to merit Jehovah's blessing.—Luke 13:24.

6 Keeping up with all that is expected of us means that we will have to keep "working hard and exerting ourselves." (1 Tim. 4:10) Nevertheless, there is a great reward in the knowledge that God is well pleased with such efforts. Always having plenty to do in Jehovah's service can help us to be counted among the faithful servants who "will get many blessings."—Prov. 28:20.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	611	114.5	40.3	4.3	86.8
Pios.	13,129	76.2	28.9	3.1	62.8
Aux. Pios.	8,878	59.0	17.3	1.4	44.4
Pubs.	465,505	8.0	3.3	.4	8.4
TOTAL	488,123				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,907

Schedule for congregation book studies in the *Word of God* book:

September 3: Pages 109 to 114
September 10: Pages 115 to 120
September 17: Pages 121 to 127*
September 24: Pages 127 to 134

* To subheading.

'Acquiring a Fine Standing' *(Cont'd)* gation respects and treasures such brothers.—Luke 16:10-12.

5 Other avenues to serve may also open up. Though the elders have the primary responsibility to do "speaking and teaching," ministerial servants with ability may be assigned instruction talks or parts on the service meeting. (1 Tim. 5:17; 3:2) They may even be asked to give part or all of a public talk. Their advancement can be greater if they will approach an elder who is experienced or gifted as a teacher and seek suggestions, or perhaps ask for counsel after giving a talk. Often they will be asked to read *The Watchtower* or perhaps, to conduct a book study where circumstances require it. Of course, conscientious preparation should be put into such assignments.

6 Because he is to be a spiritual example, a ministerial servant should have as great a share in the field service as his circumstances reasonably allow. He knows that thereby he is pleasing and praising Jehovah. It will also be a stimulus to those working with him. He can provide them with much fine training. They will know that he is not someone who merely handles details, but is an exemplary servant of Jehovah in all respects.

7 It is easy to see, then, why Paul said of such men that they "are acquiring . . . a fine standing." This is not, as some suggest, an advancement in a church hierarchy. Rather, ministerial servants who "minister in a fine manner" are assured of a blessing from Jehovah and Jesus, and they have the respect and support of the whole congregation. Rightfully they acquire "great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus." Being true to their position, they are appreciated for their fine service; they have firmness of faith and can declare their faith without cowardice or fear of reproach.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

OCTOBER 1978
Vol. 21, No. 10
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

We here at Bethel have certainly enjoyed attending one of the 20 "Victorious Faith" International Conventions throughout the United States. It was most encouraging to be present at various places with so many of you, friends both old and new, from far and near. You will be pleased to know that in the continental United States there was a peak attendance of 785,051 and 5,539 were baptized.

The conventions have provided us with much to think about, haven't they? The field service Friday morning was also a delight. Indeed, "the one whom people put in charge of much, they will demand more than usual of him," and so it was most fitting that talks during the morning and afternoon sessions of one entire day were devoted to considering the needs of the elders, who number about 45,000 in this country.—Luke 12:48.

Elders especially appreciated the kindly admonition to keep examining themselves as to their attitude toward their assignment, their spirituality and the example they set in the evangelizing work, matters of morality and firmness for right principles. One of them said: "Wednesday's program was for me. Now I can see how to perform all my duties and be balanced as a person and family head."

Were you not encouraged to learn that almost 28,000 were baptized in the United States last year and 273,000 studies were conducted each month? We are glad to have these new ones in our midst. While we were reminded that all of us can share in aiding them, we can readily see the big responsibility that elders have in this area where they can demonstrate their genuine care and concern for the flock.

We were happy to hear that 60 percent of one congregation in Colorado and 59 people in a con-

(*Continued on page 4, col. 2*)

Demonstrate a Living Faith

¹ In discussing the subject of faith, James asked: "You believe there is one God, do you?" He then said: "You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder." (Jas. 2:19) The Greek word for "to believe" is the same as "to put faith in."—Jas. 2:23.

² Thus, the demons believe there is a God and are in fear of him, but they have not obeyed him. Likewise, even though we believe in God, if we do not obey God, such a "faith apart from works is inactive." (Jas. 2:20) Our faith should be like Abraham's, which was perfected by his works.—Jas. 2:21, 22.

DEMONSTRATE FAITH

³ In October we want to demonstrate our living faith by works in the field service. To aid us, Jehovah has generously provided an effective instrument to use in the subscription campaign—the October 8 issue of *Awake!* with the captivating theme: "A Book That Can Put Bread on Your Table." (See Presenting the Good News.)

⁴ Despite good intentions, we can become irregular in our field service activity. How can we avoid this potential pitfall? By imitating Jehovah. James describes Jehovah as "the Father of the celestial lights," with whom "there is not a variation of the turning of the shadow." (Jas. 1:17) He is a God of order, unchangeableness, and dependability. In order to get things done at home, in school and on our secular jobs we adhere to a regular routine. There is no question about the wisdom of having things scheduled. We can follow Jehovah's orderly example by establishing a *weekly schedule* that sets aside definite periods of time to show our faith by works in the field.

⁵ For example, in October why not work out a family schedule that allows you to share in the field service for three hours or more a week, or, if possible, to auxiliary pioneer? Being an auxiliary pioneer would mean spending, on the average, only two hours daily helping those in our territory spiritually. Some brothers and sisters auxiliary pioneer often, some every month. One brother recently wrote the Society: "Auxiliary pioneering has given me a new appreciation of the field service. I'm more careful to follow through on interest located and I am much more effective in helping people. Auxiliary pioneering has really helped me to enter more fully into the spirit of harvesting."—Matt. 9:35-38.

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

Have You Tried a Magazine Route?

¹ During October we are offering the *Awake!* subscription from house to house, and we are sure that many will be interested in taking a subscription. However, for various reasons some persons prefer not to subscribe and yet may show interest in our magazines. What could we do then? Why not try starting a magazine route by returning in a week or two with the latest issues?

² Surely we want to be regular proclaimers of the good news, do we not? Regularity in service strengthens our faith and develops our effectiveness. And here is one advantage of a magazine route. We find that every week or every two weeks the one with a magazine route gets out on a regular basis to deliver the magazines to those on his route. And often two publishers can work together, the more experienced one assisting and training the one with less experience in the field. Thus the route really helps *two* publishers to be regular and effective proclaimers of the Kingdom good news!

³ Another benefit of a magazine route is that personal calls are made on people regularly. Even though the witness given might be brief, seeds of truth are being sown on each call. An alert publisher soon knows which calls merit follow-up, and many publishers and pioneers find this an excellent way to start new home Bible studies. So a good magazine route not only helps to get the magazines placed but also helps to locate truly sheeplike persons so that we can assist them to become disciples of Christ, too.

⁴ Some publishers find it advantageous to start a magazine route with shopkeepers and store clerks. In this way they are able to do store-to-store work on a regular basis and briefly witness to busy persons who may not hear about the truth in any other way.

⁵ Do you find your magazines stacking up at times? A regular magazine route certainly helps in getting our journals into the hands of readers, as you are taking the magazines to persons who know the type of material they contain and are glad to have them brought to their homes.

⁶ So, if you do not have a maga-

(*Continued on page 4, col. 2*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 1

Theme: Faith with Works.—Jas. 2:26.

10 min: Song 24 and announcements.

15 min: "Demonstrate a Living Faith." (Handled by field overseer.) If necessary, elders meet prior to this part to arrange times for field service in October in order to inform publishers at this meeting. Question-and-answer discussion. Look up and discuss texts cited. Have publishers prepared to relate how one's schedule might be arranged so as to spend more time in field service during October. If some are able to auxiliary pioneer, let them briefly relate how they are able to schedule their time. Inform all of meetings for field service scheduled at times practical for pioneers, auxiliary pioneers and publishers.

15 min: Know Your Magazine. (Encourage each one to have a copy of the October 8 *Awake!*) Cover interesting highlights, illustrations and talking points that publishers can use while working in the field, helping others to build up their faith in the Bible.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News—By Emphasizing the Bible's Practical Value." Develop presentations with audience and thereafter demonstrate each one. In connection with each presentation, let publishers express what appeals to them. Make the part practical and helpful. We want to be effective in our faith-building work.

5 min: Song 76 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 8

Theme: Our Place of Worship.

10 min: Song 5. Branch Letter.

20 min: Supporting the House of True Worship. Talk and Scriptural discussion with audience of the following:

1. Congregations of Jehovah's people today look to Kingdom Hall as house of true worship. Building not considered as sacred, yet given special position and honor due to use in Jehovah's worship. Need for all to support Kingdom Hall in various ways. Can look to ancient Jewish nation as an example.

2. Tabernacle constructed in wilderness in 1512 B.C.E. Materials were required; Israelites volunteered more than enough.—Ex. 36:3, 6, 7.

3. Tabernacle replaced later by temple in Jerusalem. King David gave from his personal fortune to support temple construction under Solomon's supervision.—1 Chron. 22:14; 29:3-7.

4. More than initial construction support required. Repairs and cleansing needed at times. (2 Chron. 29:3, 15, 16) Continual support of temple worship was required.—Neh. 13:9-14.

5. Those who supported God's house had his blessing. (Mal. 3:10) Took time, effort, finances, but all went to support true worship of Jehovah God, to magnify his name. All in congregations today should be willing workers as faithful Israelites were. Our Kingdom Halls should be focal point of true worship in each community. We should all support this house of true worship. How? Not only by attending meetings, but also by contributing our time, energies, finances and skills to make and keep our Kingdom Halls presentable. Each Kingdom Hall should be well maintained inside and out and thus be a silent witness to the name of Jehovah. We should be proud of our Kingdom Halls, happy to invite people to come there for Christian association and Bible study. Jehovah will bless us as we give of our "firstfruits" to support his worship today.—Prov. 3:9, 10.

15 min: "Is Your Kingdom Hall Presentable?" (Handled by presiding overseer.) Question-and-answer discussion with application of points to needs of the local Kingdom Hall.

10 min: Our Kingdom Hall Needs. Talk by elder. Some Kingdom Halls may need painting or rather extensive work that will take a week or two or longer. Outline what the elders discussed and suggested to improve the Kingdom Hall's appearance. (The Society is not making Kingdom Hall loans at this time. Costs for repairs must be financed locally.)

Some congregations have a relatively new hall that may only need a thorough cleaning. It may be that a nearby congregation has much to do to improve their hall. Why not analyze your circumstances to determine if you can be of assistance? Elders can cooperate with one another in working out the details and arranging help through the elders. If possible, would it not be good to organize for the Kingdom Hall work this month or the next?

If some will spend considerable time on Kingdom Hall work, encourage others to share more fully in field service to make up for the time some will be working on the Kingdom Hall.

5 min: Song 8 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 15

Theme: Use the Magazines in Evangelizing Work.

15 min: Song 4 and announcements. Then brief discussion to show urgent need for people to learn truth to cope with family and marriage problems. God's Word shows root cause of problems and also proper remedy. (Prov. 3:5, 6) Our magazines will help to direct people to God's Word and God's remedy for family problems. (Chairman can here interview two or three prepared publishers. Ask: What points in recent issues have you found practical and useful in field service?) Conclude by showing which articles are practical and helpful for field service. Encourage use of magazines in all features of our evangelizing work.

13 min: "Have You Tried a Magazine Route?" Question-and-answer discussion of article with congregation.

15 min: How to Develop Magazine Routes. Consider following points with audience and draw out answers:

1. House-to-house record. Why should we use it to record interest and magazine placements?

2. What should we say about our calling again to one who takes the magazines? (Get practical suggestions on laying groundwork for future calls. Include thought that new issues of magazines are available every week with interesting, thought-provoking articles.)

3. As we return with new issues, what approach might be helpful to get route established? (Emphasize knowing the magazines well, reading them first. Have several talking points to use. Try to determine what might appeal to certain people in territory.)

4. When should we go on a magazine route? (Include suggestions from audience. Some may go on Saturday or Sunday after regular field service. Others prefer late afternoons or evenings when they find more at home. Some publishers go on routes as they travel or walk to or from congregation meetings.) Chairman can point out value of regular contact with people in territory through magazine route calls, and then conclude part.

12 min: Interview publishers who have good success in field service and who are effective in placing magazines. (Include one or two elders who are taking a good lead in field service.) What do they find appeals to people in local territory? What are various ways that magazines may be placed other than direct approach, such as informal witnessing? Do elders feel that the magazines are helpful in their evangelizing work? How? Have younger publishers found articles in magazines helpful in speaking to other students or to teachers? Have any studies been started in territory as a direct result of magazine placements? (Encourage this way to make disciples!) Conclude by encouraging all to consider their personal schedule for evangelizing work and the possibilities for arranging more time to help people in local territory to gain a knowledge of the truth.

5 min: Song 10 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 22

Theme: Examining Our Personal Relationship with Jehovah.

10 min: Song 35 and local announcements. Briefly mention theme of meeting and how each part relates to it.

20 min: Our Relationship with Jehovah. Question-and-answer discussion of following material. Encourage audience to bring out what they see in examples cited that can help us to strengthen our relationship with Jehovah and to make our service to him a source of joy and blessing.

1. Consider Proverbs 17:17. Why do some friendships develop with time and others just dwindle away? A good relationship is not static; constant effort is needed to maintain it "all the time."

2. What direction has your personal relationship with Jehovah taken since the time of your dedication? (Heb. 10:9) Many feel things have become routine, done merely out of duty or habit. What can we do to strengthen and improve our relationship with Jehovah and to rekindle the warmth and zeal we had for him?—Heb. 10:32-34.

3. What earned Abraham the privilege of being called "Jehovah's friend"? Consider James 2:21-23. Abraham not only did what he knew he should; he was *responsive* to Jehovah's every direction, always *looking* for opportunities to demonstrate his willingness and obedience, thus endeavoring to please Him.—Heb. 11:8-10, 14-17.

4. Abraham's understanding of Jehovah's viewpoint and his reflecting it in his own dealings with others contributed further to his good relationship with Jehovah. Consider Genesis 18:22-33. Abraham clearly understood Jehovah's ways, his justice and compassion, his willingness to listen to lowly, imperfect creatures. Genesis 13:8, 9 shows Abraham reflected same qualities in settling dispute with Lot. His course of action clearly was pleasing to Jehovah, thus strengthening the relationship between them.—Gen. 13:14-17.

5. Read and discuss Micah 7:18-20. When we center our lives and activities

(*Continued on page 3, col. 1*)

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Your Service Meetings *(Cont'd)*

around our relationship with Jehovah, we will come to know and experience the fullness of Jehovah's loving-kindness and mercy. What a grand privilege to have such a relationship with Jehovah God!—Ps. 84:10.

25 min: Benefiting from Abraham's Example. Talk with audience discussion, based on theme of meeting and material discussed in previous part. To be handled by a qualified elder who will first review circuit overseer's comments in last Report on Circuit Overseer's Visit with Congregation under section dealing with the spiritual condition and needs of the congregation.

As Abraham received many directions from Jehovah and faithfully carried them out, we have the command to preach the "good news" and make disciples, to "hold fast the public declaration of our hope without wavering," and to "consider one another to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together." (Matt. 28:19, 20; Heb. 10:23-25) Do we view such directions from Jehovah the same way that Abraham did—as opportunities to demonstrate our love and devotion to Jehovah and thus strengthen our relationship with him? Or, have they become a burden, an obligation to us? If so, analyze what the obstacles are and what can be done to overcome them. How can elders help? Similarly, do we feel enthused about participation in meetings, actively contributing to them? What can help us to do so? How can elders and others who have parts on meetings help? We can imitate Abraham and seize every opportunity that our circumstances afford, to carry out what we know is well-pleasing to Jehovah. —Eph. 5:15-17; Ps. 26:12; 66:13; 122:1.

We can also benefit from Abraham's example by reflecting Jehovah's qualities in our daily activities and our dealings with others, thus drawing ourselves closer to Him. The spirit of the world is to compete and win and get the best for oneself at the expense of others. (Gal. 5:26) Those who follow such a course alienate themselves from God and become his enemies rather than his friends. (Col. 1:21) We must resist any such tendencies on our part. Another factor that can easily undermine our relationship with Jehovah is the spirit of independence that caused Adam and Eve to take the course of rebellion that resulted in sin and death for the entire human family. (Rom. 5:12) Then, particularly in areas in which our Christian conscience is involved, our response and the action we take will directly affect our relationship with God. (1 Tim. 1:19; 1 Pet. 2:19, 20) Invite audience to comment on how, and in what areas, we can imitate Abraham in reflecting Jehovah's qualities in our daily life and dealings with others.

Conclude by encouraging all to treasure our personal relationship with Jehovah God and to put forth sincere effort to strengthen and improve it.

5 min: Close meeting with song 91 and prayer. (Pass out a copy of the new tract (*KN* 26) to each person. Encourage all to read tract and bring to next meeting.)

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 29

Theme: Relief from Pressure—How?

10 min: Song 21 and announcements. (During song pass out tracts to those who do not have them.)

15 min: Pressures on People Today. Talk and audience discussion of tract cover and page 2. Ask questions and let audience comment on various pressures people in general must endure. Cover each point illustrated, applying points to local circumstances. What are some facts showing the effect of pressure? What are pressures we must personally face? Do pressures seem to be getting greater?

30 min: Relief from Pressure. (Timing of parts is approximate and may be adjusted in keeping with local needs.)

(10 min:) Discussion, looking up and applying scriptures. Paul was convinced of the value of his service. He realized it could result in life to others. (2 Cor. 4:1, 2) Effort and sacrifice on his part were required. Appreciating what God had done for him moved him to speak from his heart to others, as did the psalmist whom he quoted. (Ps. 116:10; 2 Cor. 4:13) God has helped each of us through many distressing circumstances and we can depend on him to help us in the future. Moved by a heart filled with appreciation, we will speak to others, helping them to see that the Bible has the answers to the problems brought on by pressure.

(10 min:) Discuss pages 3 and 4. Page 3 of tract is designed to show how a study and application of Bible principles can help one to cope with pressure now, and page 4, that the Bible has the answers for permanent relief from pressures. Study of the Bible and application of its principles result in peace of mind. (Ps. 37:11) Tract offers free spiritual assistance.

(10 min:) Discussion with audience of the following sample presentation, and thereafter have prepared publisher demonstrate it. "Hello. I would like to give you this folder that mentions something that affects everyone —pressure. [Read title of tract.] Do you think we will ever find relief from pressure? [Allow for response.] Some of the pressures that we face every day are: [Open to page 2 and discuss what is appropriate locally or for that householder.]. Did you know that because of pressure, approximately one out of every three people today has mental illness? [Allow for response.] The Bible is helping many people to cope with pressures. Here are some actual examples. [Depending on the householder, draw attention to one of the experiences or mention how a study of the Bible has helped you personally.] [Turn to page 4.] The Bible offers a hope of permanent relief from pressures. It foretells a time when there will be no crime, sickness will end, loved ones in the grave will be raised to life and there will be plenty for all." (Let finger run down each of the points as each is quickly covered.) Start study in the Bible, if possible, or in *Truth* book. If study is not started, but interest warrants it, make arrangements for return visit. Throughout we will keep in mind how we can help people, not merely placing literature. Get householder involved in discussion of tract to see how the Bible has the answer to relieve pressure.

5 min: Song 58 and prayer.

Is Your Kingdom Hall Presentable?

¹ What a joy we experience when in our travels we see a Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Here is where a congregation of our brothers meet! We note the appearance of the Kingdom Hall and are happy when its appearance is presentable.

² The Kingdom Hall is likely the only building in the community that has Jehovah's name on it. It is identified as a place where Jehovah's name people meet together. Appreciation of this should make us very conscious of maintaining the Kingdom Hall in good condition.

³ Is your Kingdom Hall's appearance a credit to the work? Each one of us should be vitally interested in its appearance. All of us are involved. How can we help?

⁴ On the outside of the Kingdom Hall, we might first look at the sidewalk and street. If paper and debris accumulate, would it not be good to have some arrangements to do necessary cleaning up for a few minutes before and after the meetings?

⁵ Is the grass regularly cut? Is the outside appearance of the building itself neat and clean, properly representing the clean and pure worship of Jehovah? Special attention should be given to the outside appearance of the main entrance, since this is especially noticed by any who pass by. What about the sign "Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses"? Is it neat and well kept, with good lighting, if necessary? Are the times of the meetings listed correctly? A clean, pleasant Kingdom Hall invites, yes, welcomes people to come and listen.

⁶ The inside of the Kingdom Hall should also enhance the message being presented. Is the interior neat and clean? Well arranged? Is seating adequate? What about the ventilation? Are rest rooms clean and well supplied with towels, toilet tissue and soap? Are the fixtures in working order? Do you help your group when it is assigned to clean the Kingdom Hall?

⁷ All of us should not only be conscious of the Kingdom Hall's inside and outside appearance, but should also be willing to help out as needed. We do well to appreciate that the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses should at all times be an honor and praise to Jehovah's name, and we should gladly do our part in keeping it in a condition that results in a favorable impression.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	638	99.8	34.6	3.6	105.0
Pios.	13,305	70.1	27.4	3.0	67.6
Aux. Pios.	8,058	60.0	17.6	1.3	62.3
Pubs.	498,699	8.1	3.3	.4	10.2
TOTAL	520,700				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 3,206

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

By Emphasizing the Bible's Practical Value

1 How practical is the Bible for people who need to spend their time working hard to feed and clothe their families? That question expresses an attitude of many people in our territory. While they are concerned about their future security, they are interested in improving their lot *now*. During the month of October we will be helping our hearers to appreciate that the Bible offers help for improvement and happiness now, plus a grand hope for the future. By accepting the *Awake!* subscription, individuals will be helped to appreciate the value of Bible principles in everyday living.

2 Here is a suggested presentation: "Hello. We're calling because of our interest in our neighbors. Most people today work very hard to make a living and to feed and clothe a family, don't they? And that is becoming more difficult, isn't it? Did you know that there is a book that can help us to provide for our needs, that can improve our lot in life? Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread, for the things we need. Applying certain Bible principles can actually help us to provide for our families. Notice what Isaiah 48:17 says about the Author of the Bible. [Read.] Yes, the God of the Bible teaches us to benefit ourselves in our everyday living." Direct their attention to an interesting point in the *Awake!* magazine, and make the offer.

3 For those who are busy, a shorter presentation such as this might be used: "I can appreciate that you are busy, so I'll be very brief. One of the major reasons we are so busy today is the need we have to make a living. The *Awake!* magazine, in this special issue, discusses a book that can help us to provide the material things that we need. Perhaps you had not thought of the Bible in that way, but you will enjoy and appreciate the *Awake!* magazine because it shows us how applying Bible principles every day can improve our lives now." Make the offer.

4 For those who mention that they have their own religion, this presentation might be effective: "Most people we meet have their own religion. Our interest is in helping people to use the Bible as a guide for everyday living. Applying Bible principles can help us to improve our lot in life. Notice what the Bible says about its Author at Isaiah 48:17. [Read.] We benefit ourselves by coming to appreciate the Bible and its principles, and that is the purpose of *Awake!* For example, you will notice the title of this special issue of *Awake!*—'A Book That Can Put Bread on Your Table.' You'll enjoy reading *Awake!* along with your own copy of the Bible." Make the offer.

5 By coming to see that the Bible can improve their lot now, interested persons will also learn of Jehovah's marvelous arrangements for the eternal blessing of right-hearted ones.—Titus 1:2.

Announcements

- Literature offer for October: The *Awake!* subscription, with a 384- or 416-page book for $2.00. Remember, credit may be requested by congregations for books given free with one year's subscription. (See January 1978 *Our Kingdom Service*, Announcements.) November: The entire month will be devoted to tract distribution. December: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and any pocket-size book for $1.85, or offer *My Book of Bible Stories* for $2.00.
- Next year the celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal will be after sunset on Wednesday, April 11, 1979. Knowing this now may be of assistance in places where a number of congregations use the same Kingdom Hall.
- New Publications Available:

Good News—to Make You Happy —French, Xhosa
Holy Spirit—The Force Behind the Coming New Order! —French, Greek
True Peace and Security—From What Source? —Greek, Tsonga
Your Youth—Getting the Best out of It —Hungarian, Xhosa
Bible Topics for Discussion —Japanese, Korean

A Magazine Route *(Cont'd)*

zine route yet, why not try starting one? There are many advantages and blessings. And, remember that each time you return with the magazines you give a witness; so a *return visit should be counted*. It may take a little time and persistence to get your route established, but the rewards and blessings are worth while.

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

gregation in Illinois auxiliary pioneered as a result of the fine lead that the elders took in the evangelizing work. We were reminded that with their "ability to teach," elders are to aid fellow Christians to share effectively in this vital activity. May we all *reflect on such fine* counsel and become "doers of the word."—Jas. 1:22-25.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

THEOCRATIC NEWS

- **The brothers in Italy did outstanding work during May. A new peak of publishers was reached with 71,796 reporting. Congregation publishers averaged 11.5 hours and a total of 50,492 home Bible studies were conducted.**
- **Kenya reported a new peak of 1,989 publishers. Kingdom News entitled "The Family—Can It Survive?" was a subject readily received by the people.**
- **Sri Lanka reported a new peak of 558 publishers.**

Demonstrate a Living Faith *(Cont'd)*

6 Do you feel the need to spend more time in doing things with your family? Why not arrange for your whole family to enjoy the field service together. As your children see their God-fearing parents in action, they will be helped to demonstrate their faith, not only while sharing in the field service, but also when in school.

TAKE THE LEAD

7 Peter encouraged older men to become examples to the flock. (1 Pet. 5:3) During October, as elders and ministerial servants zealously take the lead in the field service and joyfully work with their fellow publishers, the congregation will imitate their faith. When an elder apologized for not being able to work with a sister due to his working with others and time running out, she said: "That is okay. I could see you working across the street and that was enough for me." The body of elders will organize field service activity for the congregation so that everyone can share as fully as possible in declaring his faith. In this way we will be used by Jehovah to help save the lives of deserving ones whom we search out. The month of October affords all of us an excellent opportunity to prove that our living faith in Jehovah moves us to become 'doers of the work,' which results in happiness.—Jas. 1:25.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *Word of God* book:

October 1:	Pages 135-142
October 8:	Pages 143-149
October 15:	Pages 150-155
October 22:	Pages 156-161
October 29:	Pages 162-170

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

God is the One Teaching Us.—Isa. 48: 17, 18.

1. Author of Bible.
2. Created man; knows what we need. Listen to what He says. Applying Bible's principles improves our lot in life.

OUR KINGDOM SERVICE

NOVEMBER 1978
Vol. 21, No. 11
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

Our brothers are still talking about the "Victorious Faith" International Conventions. And, of course, many are yet to be held in Central and South America, Africa and the South Pacific. For the conventions held to date in the continental United States, Canada, the Caribbean Islands, the Orient and Europe, for which we have received reports, the peak attendance is up to 1,789,414 and there were 18,754 baptized.

One of the high points of the convention everywhere has been our activity in the field service on Friday morning. A brother who attended the convention in Los Angeles said: "I was happy to share in this special work. What better way to demonstrate our love and fellow feeling toward our neighbors?" Another said: "I was proud to be among the thousands carrying our little yellow bags. That in itself was a powerful witness." And still another: "People readily accepted the brochure. We really enjoyed the work. Let's do it again."

One woman had heard on TV that Jehovah's people would be visiting persons in their homes on Friday. When a brother approached her, she said: "You aren't supposed to come until Friday." When the brother assured her that it was Friday she said: "Oh, so it is. Yes, I'll be glad to take the offer." Another woman had just been talking on the phone to a friend across town about the calls of the Witnesses when her doorbell rang. She came to the door with 25c in her hand, smiled at our brother and said: "I was expecting you and am glad to have my copies of the publications." In Seattle, Washington, the evening news carried a film showing one of our brothers giving his presentation to a woman earlier in the day. It is apparent that a good witness was given.

When we receive news from the conventions still to be held we will

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

Relief from Pressure

[1] Most of us have fond memories of pleasures and successes we have enjoyed in discussing subjects that have been featured in the tracts. And we have a fine one this time, too. It is "Relief from Pressure—Is It Possible?"

[2] It is an accepted fact that pressures of life are increasing daily. And it is apparent that we need relief from these pressures. What a marvelous Father we have, to provide relief even now for those who love him, while at the same time he provides direction for all mankind so that they, too, may enjoy relief from the pressures of a corrupt system of things and from human imperfection if they will only receive it. Our appreciation for what God has done for us and our love for our neighbors will move us to speak to them from our hearts and endeavor to help them.—Matt. 22:37-39.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

[3] In fulfilling our commission to preach the good news it is good to be adaptable. Since pressure is commonly experienced, our conversing with others on this subject shows understanding and fellow feeling. Because the subject concerns them, many may be inclined to express themselves.

[4] As you hand people the tract, we suggest that you draw them into the conversation whenever possible. You will find many opportunities to do so. For instance, as they look at the cover you might ask: "Do you think it is possible for people to find relief from pressure?" Listen to what they have to say. Show understanding for their feelings. You may formerly have felt the same way yourself.

[5] As you point to page two, which illustrates the many things that cause pressure, you might ask the householder what sort of things he feels causes pressure on people in his neighborhood. Then, why not ask him if he feels that the Bible could help? Again, listen to what he has to say. Only when you know his thinking will you be in a position to be of assistance to him. If you have opportunity, you can point to some of the illustrations on page three and draw attention to the Scriptural encouragement on page four. We also encourage you to explain the home Bible study arrangement if at all possible.

[6] One brother wrote the Society after our last tract distribution and said: "The conversational approach with the tracts is excellent and we have found that it often opens the way for Scriptural discussions and

(*Continued on page 8, col. 3*)

Have You Tried It?

[1] What? Using a number of the suggestions made in *Our Kingdom Service* a few months ago.

[2] Do you remember the article that asked: "How many people do you pass in a day's time? . . . Have you ever wondered how many of these have ever heard the good news from one of our brothers? And how many have not?" What are we doing to help these people? To illustrate a possibility, when you are going from house to house—and we find so many are not at home these days—do you endeavor to talk to those who are doing things outside the home and those who are passing by? This was one of the suggestions that was made. Have you tried it?

[3] The article went on to ask: "How many people are there in your territory who have never had opportunity to hear the good news? Look at the people you pass when you are away from home. Some of them are standing and waiting. Some of them are sitting on a bench or in a car. Some are walking and looking. Could you approach them?" Have you tried to do so?

[4] One sister wrote the Society and said: "After reading the article 'How Many Can You Reach?' in the December 1977 issue of *Our Kingdom Service*, four other pioneers and I tried the suggestions given in the article. We approached people on the street and engaged them in conversation concerning better government. We had one fine conversation after another. In just over an hour, five of us placed 27 books. One girl even came up to us and asked for the books. We thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience. Since none of us had done anything like this before, we thank Jehovah that he helped us to overcome our initial nervousness. You can be sure that we plan to do this again."

[5] Another wrote and said: "We approached people who did not seem to be rushed. Generally, the conversations were brief and to the point, but we also enjoyed lengthy discussions with several who showed considerable interest. We appreciated the suggestion that we choose the people we talk to. We found the best success with teen-agers and also older men, persons who

(*Continued on page 8, col. 1*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 5

18 min: Song 40 and local announcements. *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century.* (Pp. 3-5) (It is requested that each week the brochure is considered, a capable reader be assigned in advance so that he can prepare to read well.) Have brother read with feeling and good emphasis the material under the heading "Who Are They?" Then ask audience: What kind of people are Jehovah's Witnesses? What can be said about our beliefs and the Bible?

Have assigned brother read the material under the heading "Their Name." Then ask audience: How many Hebrew letters are there in Jehovah's name? How is Jehovah's name presented in the Roman Catholic *Jerusalem Bible?* How many times does Jehovah's name appear in the original Hebrew Scriptures? What verses would you use to show that our name is Scriptural? (1) In the Hebrew Scriptures? (2) In the Greek Scriptures? How many Witnesses are there world wide? (Encourage all to bring their copy of the brochure to the meetings in following weeks.)

18 min: "Relief from Pressure." Question-and-answer consideration of article. Demonstrate how capable publisher has been offering tracts and drawing householder into conversation in a simple and uncomplicated way.

Encourage young publishers to make a simple offer of the tract if they desire. Have a young person demonstrate how he might do it. As a suggestion he might say: "Good morning. This tract discusses something that most people face and that is pressure. [Show p. 2.] It shows a remedy that millions of persons have found. Please be sure to read it. Also, if you wish, Jehovah's Witnesses will be glad to come to your home to study the Bible with you. There will be no charge for this service." If the householder asks the youngster if he will be conducting the study, he can reply that he will be glad to bring his father or mother, if this would be best. Encourage all to share in the work this week.

17 min: Learn from Jeremiah's Experience. Jeremiah was a man of faith and loyalty, though he experienced difficult times. As you cover the following material, have the scriptures read by someone in the audience before you ask the questions.

1. Read Jeremiah 1:6-8. Then ask: Despite feelings of inadequacy that we may have, how may we be encouraged by these verses?

2. Read Jeremiah 1:17-19. What assurances and confidence do these verses give us as we do a work like that of Jeremiah?

3. Read Jeremiah 20:9, 11, 13. If we become temporarily discouraged, what encouragement do we have in these verses?

4. Read Jeremiah 26:12, 15. Of what are we reminded by these verses?

5. Read Jeremiah 31:3, 4. How do these verses tell of Jehovah's love and mercy to those who repent and turn to doing his will? Can people today change and still have Jehovah's favor? What does Isaiah 1:18, 19 say?

In conclusion, ask audience: What assurance and encouragement did this discussion give you?

7 min: Review field service arrangements for the weekend. Ask audience how many shared in the special field service activity on Friday morning at the international convention. Encourage all to have a full share in the tract work during November. Could you put forth a special effort to share in the work just as you did during the convention? Could you work together as a family this weekend? Endeavor to start home Bible studies. Song 39 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 12

10 min: Song 66. Local announcements and accounts report.

12 min: *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century.* (Pp. 6-8) Have assigned brother read with good feeling and clarity the material on page 6 of the brochure. Then ask audience: What impressed you from this material? How many pioneers are there world wide today?

Read the material under the heading "The Year 1914." Ask audience to comment on anything that impressed them. Which quotation do you believe would impress an interested person the most?

13 min: "Did You Get the Sense of It?" Have a capable brother read the article to the audience. Then review material by asking audience a few questions on main points of article.

In conclusion allow at least three minutes to entertain expressions or experiences from those who have already endeavored to follow through on some of the things brought to our attention at the convention on Thursday. If expressions are few, present concrete suggestions as to what can be done *now* to follow through on some of the main points.

12 min: "Presenting the Good News—Do You Help Young Ones to Have a Part?" Question-and-answer consideration of article.

13 min: How Do You Do It? Without making introductory remarks, invite expressions from individuals who include young publishers in their conversation when they go from house to house. How do they get them to have a part? What do they say? How do they introduce them? and so forth. Also entertain expressions on how they have included young ones in the tract work.

Have two or three young ones present the tract as they have been doing in the house-to-house work. Also have an older publisher demonstrate how he or she introduces a young person at the door.

Encourage families to work together in the tract work this weekend, if at all possible. Encourage all to endeavor to start home Bible studies. Or, if interest is found, and you do not feel you can handle it, return with a brother or sister who could start a study. Song 103 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 19

8 min: Song 62. Local announcements.

12 min: *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century.* (Pp. 8-11) Have assigned brother read with good clarity the material under "Court Victories" and "Special Training Programs." Ask: How many remember these days? What do you remember about them? Were you involved in these events? How?

Read paragraphs under "Printing Facilities Expand" and "International Conventions." Ask: How many have ever served at Bethel or the Society's farms? How many have attended international conventions? What experiences and memories do you treasure from these events? Invite brief expressions so that the greatest number can comment.

20 min: Continue to Grow in Humility. Humility is defined as "lowliness of mind." While the idea was foreign to Greek thought, a word was coined to express this idea about which Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3. (Read.) As you cover the following points, have someone in the audience read the scripture before you ask the question.

1. After reading Psalm 113:5-7, ask: How is Jehovah an example of humility?

2. Read 2 Samuel 22:1, 36. Why did David speak of Jehovah as being humble when he delivered David out of the hand of his enemies? Does this quality make you love Jehovah? Why?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. How do Paul's words help us to be humble and patient when faced with the imperfections of others?

4. Read Romans 12:10, 16. How will following the counsel in these verses help us to stay humble?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22, 23. How will our taking the view expressed by Paul help us to be humble in presenting the good news to others?

6. What opportunities do we have to show humility toward members of our own family? Toward other members of the congregation?

20 min: Local experiences in the tract work. Perhaps one or two could be arranged ahead of time so that participation will not lag. However, a generous portion of the time should be allowed for a spontaneous expression of experiences that the brothers have had in the tract work.

Outline local arrangements for field service with the tract during the rest of the week. Encourage audience: Could you put forth a special effort in the tract work this weekend? Or next weekend? Could you spend a little more time than usual because of your neighbor love and love for God? Encourage family members to enjoy the pleasure of working together if this is possible. Endeavor to start home Bible studies with other families. Song 31 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 26

10 min: Song 11. Appropriate local announcements. Also comment on article "Help from Jehovah at the Right Time." Encourage all to bring their copy of the booklet *Unseen Spirits* with them to the book study next week when we will begin to study it.

15 min: Use as needed locally.

15 min: "Have You Tried It?" Question-and-answer consideration of article. Read selected paragraphs. Call for expressions of publishers who have successfully approached people outside their homes.

15 min: The offer for December: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and any pocket-size book for $1.85. Or as an alternate offer, the new publication *My Book of Bible Stories* can be offered for a contribution of $2.00.

Ask audience for comments on the following: (1) How they present the *New World Translation.* (2) What features they point to in the *New World Translation* so the householder can see the value of obtaining a copy for himself. (3) How many have ever tried to start a study right after placing the

(*Continued on page 7, col. 1*)

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THEOCRATIC SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 1979

INSTRUCTIONS

During 1979 the following will be the arrangement when conducting the Theocratic School.

TEXTBOOKS: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, The Watchtower* [*w*], *Awake!* [*g*], *Bible Topics for Discussion* [*td*], and the books *Aid to Bible Understanding* [*ad*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* [*si*] and *Holy Spirit—The Force Behind the Coming New Order!* [*hs*] will be the basis for assignments.

The school will begin with song and prayer and remarks of welcome, and then proceed as follows:

INSTRUCTION TALK: No. 1: 15 minutes. This should not be just a summary of the assigned material. It should be a well-developed talk on a chosen theme, assigned to an elder if possible, or, when necessary, to a qualified ministerial servant. The coverage should not be superficial but should provide a presentation that is truly informative and helpful to the congregation. There will be no oral review.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 5 minutes. Right after the instruction talk the school overseer, or another qualified elder assigned by him, will present highlights and questions based on the week's Bible reading assignment. This should be well prepared. Following this, the students will be dismissed to their various classrooms.

TALK NO. 2: 6 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the student to present brief explanatory information in his opening and concluding remarks, and even at intermediate points. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, application of principles and expressions of appreciation for the wisdom reflected in the text may be included. The talk should be planned in a way that allows for all the assigned verses actually to be read. The allotted time should be fully utilized. The material may be presented as a talk to the congregation, or a boy may read it to his father or to another qualified older brother while they are seated on the platform. The father or other older brother may then use questions to draw comments from the boy on the value of the material.

TALK NO. 3: 6 minutes. This talk will be assigned to sisters whenever possible. When delivering the talk, the student may be either seated or standing. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but additional assistants may be used. Settings could include situations arising at home, in the field service, in the congregation or elsewhere. The sister giving the talk may either initiate the conversation to establish the setting or have her assistant(s) do so. Not the setting, but the material should be given prime consideration.

TALK NO. 4: 6 minutes. Rather than a talk, this will be a Bible study, conducted by a sister. The one conducting the study should strive to make it as helpful, realistic and interesting as possible. This assignment in the school should encourage those who are not yet conducting home Bible studies to work toward this end and help publishers who do conduct them to improve. It is not necessary to read the paragraphs, though certain ones might be read. Nor is it necessary to cover all the assigned material; at times certain choice paragraphs could be selected, questions raised and scriptures looked up and considered. If an answer is incomplete, the conductor should ask auxiliary questions. Though only one assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, additional assistants may be used.

TALK NO. 5: 6 minutes. Assigned preferably to a brother with some experience, it should be a talk to the entire audience. While giving his talk from notes, the speaker, when he thinks it fitting, may read quotations or pointed excerpts from the assigned material. It will usually be best for the speaker to prepare his talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind, so that it will be truly informative and beneficial to those who actually hear it. However, if the material lends itself to another practical and suitable setting, the speaker may choose to develop his talk accordingly.

REMARKS: After each student talk (Nos. 2 through 5), the school overseer will have two minutes to highlight truths and principles that the students may not have included in their presentations. These remarks should be meaningful, emphasizing points that will be helpful to the brothers in their homelife, at school, on the job, within the congregation or while out in the field service. Occasionally, questions can be put to the audience on points in the assigned material that can be applied.

COUNSEL: This will always be given privately after the meeting. More than two minutes may be used as advisable. The private counsel for Talk No. 4 may include overall impressions as to how the study was conducted. On the Speech Counsel slip use only those aspects that would suitably apply to one conducting a Bible study.

PREPARING TALKS: Where the material makes it possible, talks should follow a well-developed theme. Choose a theme that will allow for the best coverage of the material in the allotted time. Prepare all talks with the points in mind to be considered next on the Speech Counsel slip.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime. Neither should the remarks by the school overseer. Talks Nos. 2 through 5 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If the school overseer assigns someone to give the "stop signal," that one should be advised as to the importance of doing this whenever a talk goes overtime. An instruction talk speaker who goes overtime should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully so that the Theocratic School as a whole does not run overtime.

WRITTEN REVIEWS: Periodically a written review will be given. In preparation, review principally the material in *ad, si* and *hs* and complete the assignment of personal Bible reading. Only the Bible may be used during this thirty-minute review. The balance of the hour will be devoted to a discussion of the questions and answers. Each student will check his own paper and, in reading off the answers, the school overseer will concentrate on the more difficult questions, stressing the matter of accurate knowledge and letting the audience turn to the textbooks where the answers may be checked. If, for some reason, local circumstances make it necessary, the written review may be used a week later than what is shown on the schedule.

LARGE AND SMALL CONGREGATIONS: Congregations with a school enrollment of 50 or more students may wish to arrange for additional groups of students to deliver the scheduled talks before other counselors. Rotate the students to the various halls. Where it is necessary, sisters may take any student talk, presenting it to someone else, as outlined for Talk No. 3.

ABSENTEES: The entire congregation can show appreciation for this school by being present, when possible, at every weekly session, by preparing their assignments well, and by participating in question sessions. If a student is not present when scheduled, a volunteer may take the assignment, making whatever application he feels qualified to make on such short notice. Or, the school overseer may cover the material with appropriate audience participation.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 7 **Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 1 to 4**

No. 1: *si* p. 79 ¶1 to p. 84 ¶36. "2 Chronicles."

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 1:1-12

No. 3: *td* 2A "Will God Ever Put an End to Wickedness?"

No. 4: *hs* p. 5 ¶1 to p. 7 ¶6

No. 5: *w77* pp. 244-247

Jan. 14 **Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 5 to 8**

No. 1: *ad* p. 1582 ¶3 to p. 1584 ¶1. "Temple."

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 6:12-21, 32, 33

No. 3: *td* 3B "Does Baptism Wash Our Sins Away?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 8 ¶7 to p. 12 ¶15
No. 5: *w77* pp. 253-255

Jan. 21 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 9 to 12
No. 1: *ad* p. 907 ¶3 to ¶12; p. 1383 ¶12 to p. 1384 ¶2. "Jeroboam," "Rehoboam."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 9:1-9, 12, 23, 24
No. 3: *td* 4G "Do Christians Need the 'Old Testament'?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 12 ¶16 to p. 15 ¶21
No. 5: *w77* pp. 259-262

Jan. 28 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 13 to 16
No. 1: *si* p. 269 ¶1 to p. 277 ¶32. "A Visit to the Promised Land."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 13:8-20
No. 3: *td* 5A "Why Don't You Take Blood Transfusions?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 16 ¶1 to p. 19 ¶9
No. 5: *w77* pp. 293-295

Feb. 4 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 17 to 20
No. 1: *ad* p. 881 ¶8 to p. 882 ¶1. "Jehoshaphat."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 20:5-12, 22-25
No. 3: *td* 6C "How Do You Know Jesus Was Not Born in the Winter?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 20 ¶10 to p. 23 ¶15
No. 5: *w77* pp. 323-325

Feb. 11 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 21 to 24
No. 1: *ad* p. 507 ¶8 to p. 508 ¶8. "Elijah."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 24:15-25
No. 3: *td* 7E "Was Peter Jesus' Successor?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 23 ¶16 to p. 26 ¶22
No. 5: *w77* pp. 355, 356

Feb. 18 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 25 to 28
No. 1: *ad* p. 1629 ¶1 to ¶8. "Uzziah."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 25:5-16
No. 3: *td* 8A "Is Conduct All That Important?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 27 ¶23 to p. 31 ¶32
No. 5: *w77* pp. 357, 358

Feb. 25 Written Review. Complete 2 Chronicles 1 to 28

Mar. 4 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 29 to 32
No. 1: *ad* p. 762 ¶12 to p. 764 ¶7. "Hezekiah."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 32:5-9, 16-22
No. 3: *td* 10B "Should the Cross Be Used in Worship?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 31 ¶33 to p. 34 ¶38
No. 5: *w77* pp. 444-446

Mar. 11 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 33 to 36
No. 1: *ad* p. 968 ¶6 to ¶15. "Josiah."
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 33:1-13
No. 3: *td* 11B "Does the Soul Live On After Death?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 35 ¶1 to p. 38 ¶7
No. 5: *w77* pp. 451, 452

Mar. 18 Bible reading: Ezra 1 to 3
No. 1: *si* p. 85 ¶1 to p. 87 ¶18. "Ezra."
No. 2: Ezra 3:6-13
No. 3: *td* 13A "What Can Be Done About Juvenile Delinquency?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 38 ¶8 to p. 43 ¶18
No. 5: *w77* pp. 509-511

Mar. 25 Bible reading: Ezra 4 to 6
No. 1: *ad* p. 296 ¶6 to p. 299 ¶1. "Captivity."
No. 2: Ezra 6:1-13
No. 3: *td* 14D "Are There Really Wicked Spirits?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 44 ¶19 to p. 47 ¶26
No. 5: *w77* pp. 526, 527

Apr. 1 Bible reading: Ezra 7 to 10
No. 1: *ad* p. 290 ¶7 to p. 292 ¶1. "Canon—Hebrew Scriptures."
No. 2: Ezra 9:1-12
No. 3: *td* 15A "Why Do You Practice Disfellowshiping?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 48 ¶27 to p. 52 ¶34
No. 5: *w77* pp. 547, 548

Apr. 8 Bible reading: Nehemiah 1 to 4
No. 1: *si* p. 88 ¶1 to p. 91 ¶19. "Nehemiah."
No. 2: Nehemiah 4:7-20
No. 3: *td* 16A "Why Do the Witnesses Shun Drugs for Pleasure?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 52 ¶35 to p. 56 ¶42
No. 5: *w77* pp. 605-607

Apr. 15 Bible reading: Nehemiah 5 to 7
No. 1: *w72* pp. 716-723. "The Spiritual Temple."
No. 2: Nehemiah 6:1-13
No. 3: *td* 17D "Will Men Eventually Destroy the Earth?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 57 ¶1 to p. 59 ¶7
No. 5: *w77* pp. 637-639

Apr. 22 Bible reading: Nehemiah 8 to 10
No. 1: *ad* p. 1473 ¶3 to p. 1475 ¶5. "Seventy Weeks."
No. 2: Nehemiah 9:4, 9-21
No. 3: *td* 18A "Did Man Descend from an Apelike Beast?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 60 ¶8 to p. 63 ¶14
No. 5: *w78* 2/15 pp. 3-6

Apr. 29 Written Review. Complete 2 Chronicles 29 to Nehemiah 10

May 6 Bible reading: Nehemiah 11 to 13
No. 1: *si* p. 277 ¶1 to p. 283 ¶34. "Time and the Holy Scriptures."
No. 2: Nehemiah 13:15-18, 23-31
No. 3: *td* 19A "How Can False Prophets Be Identified?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 64 ¶15 to p. 67 ¶22
No. 5: *w78* 2/15 pp. 27-30

May 13 Bible reading: Esther 1 to 5
No. 1: *si* p. 91 ¶1 to p. 94 ¶18. "Esther."
No. 2: Esther 4:6-17
No. 3: *td* 20C "Why Is Neutrality So Important for Christians?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 68 ¶23 to p. 72 ¶33
No. 5: *w78* 3/1 pp. 3, 4

May 20 Bible reading: Esther 6 to 10

No. 1: *ad* p. 1292 ¶9 to p. 1295 ¶8. "Persia, Persians."
No. 2: Esther 6:1-13
No. 3: *td* 21D "What Is the Christian View of Charity?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 72 ¶34 to p. 76 ¶42
No. 5: *w78* 3/15 pp. 3, 4

May 27 Bible reading: Job 1 to 4

No. 1: *si* p. 95 ¶1 to p. 100 ¶43. "Job."
No. 2: Job 2:1-13
No. 3: *td* 22C "Is God Behind Faith Healers Today?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 76 ¶43 to p. 80 ¶51
No. 5: *w78* 5/15 pp. 3, 4

June 3 Bible reading: Job 5 to 9

No. 1: *ad* p. 1450 ¶7 to p. 1452 ¶7. "Satan."
No. 2: Job 6:14-30
No. 3: *td* 23A "Will Not All Good People Go to Heaven?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 81 ¶1 to p. 85 ¶11
No. 5: *w78* 6/1 pp. 3, 4

June 10 Bible reading: Job 10 to 13

No. 1: *ad* p. 1535 ¶10 to p. 1538 ¶6. "Sovereignty."
No. 2: Job 13:1-19
No. 3: *td* 24E "Does Not the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus Prove Hellfire?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 85 ¶12 to p. 89 ¶19
No. 5: *w78* 6/15 pp. 3, 4

June 17 Bible reading: Job 14 to 17

No. 1: *ad* p. 1393 ¶15 to p. 1395 ¶5. "Resurrection."
No. 2: Job 16:1-17
No. 3: *td* 26A "Are Images an Aid to True Worship?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 89 ¶20 to p. 93 ¶28
No. 5: *w78* 7/1 pp. 3, 4

June 24 Written Review. Complete Nehemiah 11 to Job 17

July 1 Bible reading: Job 18 to 21

No. 1: *si* p. 283 ¶1 to p. 292 ¶30; also *w76* pp. 436, 437. "Measuring Events in the Stream of Time."
No. 2: Job 19:1-9, 20-26
No. 3: *td* 27A "Is Interfaith the Way to Unity?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 94 ¶29 to p. 98 ¶38
No. 5: *g77* 4/8 pp. 27, 28

July 8 Bible reading: Job 22 to 25

No. 1: *si* p. 298 ¶1 to p. 303 ¶26. "The Bible and Its Canon."
No. 2: Job 24:13-25
No. 3: *td* 28C "Do All Religions Lead to Salvation?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 99 ¶39 to p. 103 ¶50
No. 5: *g77* 4/22 pp. 26-28

July 15 Bible reading: Job 26 to 30

No. 1: *si* p. 304 ¶1 to p. 312 ¶31. "The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures."
No. 2: Job 29:1-18
No. 3: *td* 29G "Is Jehovah the God of the Jews Only?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 104 ¶1 to p. 108 ¶8
No. 5: *g77* 5/8 pp. 27, 28

July 22 Bible reading: Job 31 to 34

No. 1: *ad* p. 506 ¶39 to p. 507 ¶3. "Elihu."
No. 2: Job 33:8-13, 21-25; 34:10-12
No. 3: *td* 30A "What Is the Origin of Jehovah's Witnesses?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 108 ¶9 to p. 111 ¶17
No. 5: *g77* 5/22 pp. 26-28

July 29 Bible reading: Job 35 to 37

No. 1: *si* p. 314 ¶1 to p. 319 ¶32. "The Christian Greek Text of the Holy Scriptures."
No. 2: Job 37:1-14, 23, 24
No. 3: *td* 31E "Are We Saved by Believing in Jesus?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 112 ¶18 to p. 115 ¶27
No. 5: *g77* 6/8 pp. 27, 28

Aug. 5 Bible reading: Job 38 to 42

No. 1: *ad* p. 390 ¶10 to p. 393 ¶5. "Creation."
No. 2: Job 42:1-17
No. 3: *td* 32B "Is Judgment Day a Time of Terror?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 116 ¶28 to p. 120 ¶36
No. 5: *g77* 6/22 pp. 27, 28

Aug. 12 Bible reading: Psalms 1 to 9

No. 1: *si* p. 101 ¶1 to p. 106 ¶32. "Psalms."
No. 2: Psalm 2:1-12
No. 3: *td* 33A "Why Do You Say So Much About God's Kingdom?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 121 ¶1 to p. 123 ¶7
No. 5: *g77* 7/8 pp. 27, 28

Aug. 19 Bible reading: Psalms 10 to 17

No. 1: *ad* p. 737 ¶2 to ¶5; p. 740 ¶7 to p. 741 ¶7. "Hebrew—Hebrew Poetry."
No. 2: Psalms 11:1-7; 15:1-5
No. 3: *td* 34A "What Is Meant by 'the End of the World'?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 124 ¶8 to p. 126 ¶14
No. 5: *g77* 7/22 pp. 27, 28

Aug. 26 Written Review. Complete Job 18 to Psalm 17

Sept. 2 Bible reading: Psalms 18 to 21

No. 1: *si* p. 319 ¶1 to p. 326 ¶32. "The Bible in Modern Times."
No. 2: Psalm 19:1-14
No. 3: *td* 35C "Is Keeping the Ten Commandments Enough?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 127 ¶15 to p. 132 ¶25
No. 5: *g77* 8/8 pp. 27, 28

Sept. 9 Bible reading: Psalms 22 to 27

No. 1: *si* p. 326 ¶1 to p. 330 ¶23. "Advantages of the *New World Translation*."
No. 2: Psalm 22:1-18
No. 3: *td* 36B "Is Eternal Life Really Possible?"

No. 4: *hs* p. 132 ¶26 to p. 137 ¶36
No. 5: *g77* 8/22 pp. 27, 28

Sept. 16 Bible reading: Psalms 28 to 33
No. 1: *si* p. 331 ¶1 to p. 337 ¶27. "Archaeology Supports the Inspired Record."
No. 2: Psalm 31:1-16
No. 3: *td* 37D "When People Say: 'I Get Our Church Literature.' "
No. 4: *hs* p. 138 ¶1 to p. 141 ¶8
No. 5: *g77* 9/8 pp. 27, 28

Sept. 23 Bible reading: Psalms 34 to 37
No. 1: *si* p. 337 ¶1 to p. 342 ¶25. "The Bible—Authentic and True."
No. 2: Psalm 34:1-22
No. 3: *td* 38E "Does It Matter Whom Christians Marry?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 141 ¶9 to p. 146 ¶18
No. 5: *g77* 9/22 pp. 27, 28

Sept. 30 Bible reading: Psalms 38 to 41
No. 1: *w78* 1/1 pp. 17-23. "Enduring in Faithfulness."
No. 2: Psalm 41:1-13
No. 3: *td* 39D "Can Saints Be of Help to You?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 146 ¶19 to p. 151 ¶27
No. 5: *g77* 10/8 pp. 28, 29

Oct. 7 Bible reading: Psalms 42 to 47
No. 1: *w78* 2/1 pp. 4-7. "Maintaining the Family Circle."
No. 2: Psalm 45:1-17
No. 3: *td* 41A "Is God Partial?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 151 ¶28 to p. 153 ¶32
No. 5: *g77* 12/8 pp. 27, 28

Oct. 14 Bible reading: Psalms 48 to 54
No. 1: *w78* 3/1 pp. 21-26. " 'The Kingdom of Our Lord and of His Christ' Takes Over."
No. 2: Psalm 48:1-14
No. 3: *td* 42B "Should Persecution Be Feared?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 154 ¶33 to p. 156 ¶38
No. 5: *g77* 12/22 pp. 27, 28

Oct. 21 Bible reading: Psalms 55 to 60
No. 1: *w78* 5/1 pp. 4-12. "Jehovah's Name."
No. 2: Psalm 58:1-11
No. 3: *td* 44A "Is the Fate of Men Predestined?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 157 ¶39 to p. 160 ¶44
No. 5: *g78* 1/8 pp. 27, 28

Oct. 28 Written Review. Complete Psalms 18 to 60

Nov. 4 Bible reading: Psalms 61 to 67
No. 1: *w78* 5/1 pp. 26-28. "How Important Is Christian Giving?"
No. 2: Psalm 62:1-12
No. 3: *td* 45A "Are Some Races Superior Before God?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 160 ¶45 to p. 162 ¶48
No. 5: *g78* 1/22 pp. 27, 28

Nov. 11 Bible reading: Psalms 68 to 70
No. 1: *w78* 5/15 pp. 11-14. "Where Did Those Verses Go?"
No. 2: Psalm 69:1-10, 19-21
No. 3: *td* 46A "How Was Jesus a 'Ransom for All'?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 163 ¶1 to p. 165 ¶6
No. 5: *g78* 2/8 pp. 27, 28

Nov. 18 Bible reading: Psalms 71 to 74
No. 1: *w78* 6/1 pp. 16-20. "Share Joyfully with Jesus Christ in Jehovah's Work."
No. 2: Psalm 72:1-20
No. 3: *td* 47B "How Can the True Religion Be Identified?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 166 ¶7 to p. 168 ¶11
No. 5: *g78* 2/22 pp. 27, 28

Nov. 25 Bible reading: Psalms 75 to 78
No. 1: *w78* 6/1 pp. 26-29. "Christian 'Works'—What Do They Include?"
No. 2: Psalms 75:1-10; 76:1-5
No. 3: *td* 48A "Is There Hope for the Dead?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 169 ¶12 to p. 170 ¶14
No. 5: *g78* 3/8 pp. 26-28

Dec. 2 Bible reading: Psalms 79 to 85
No. 1: *w78* 6/15 pp. 12-15. "Human Governments Crushed by God's Kingdom."
No. 2: Psalm 81:1-16
No. 3: *td* 50D "How Can One Enter God's Rest?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 171 ¶15 to p. 174 ¶22
No. 5: *g78* 3/22 pp. 27, 28

Dec. 9 Bible reading: Psalms 86 to 89
No. 1: *w78* 6/15 pp. 16-21. "Appreciating the Sacredness of Life and Blood."
No. 2: Psalm 89:3, 4, 19-37
No. 3: *td* 51E "Will Everyone Finally Be Saved?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 175 ¶23 to p. 177 ¶27
No. 5: *g78* 4/22 pp. 27, 28

Dec. 16 Bible reading: Psalms 90 to 96
No. 1: *w78* 6/15 pp. 21-26. "Firmly Resolved About Life and Blood."
No. 2: Psalm 91:1-16
No. 3: *td* 58C "Was Jesus a God-Man?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 177 ¶28 to p. 180 ¶33
No. 5: *g78* 5/8 pp. 27, 28

Dec. 23 Bible reading: Psalms 97 to 103
No. 1: *w78* 6/15 pp. 26-29. "More 'Workers' Needed —Can You Share?"
No. 2: Psalms 100:1-5; 101:1-8
No. 3: *td* 60D "How Are Jehovah's Witnesses Financed?"
No. 4: *hs* p. 180 ¶34 to p. 183 ¶39
No. 5: *g78* 5/22 pp. 27, 28

Dec. 30 Written Review. Complete Psalms 61 to 103

Did You Get the Sense of It?

[1] "Of what?" you may ask. The need for all of us to examine ourselves to determine if we have been taking the truth for granted and to see if our circumstances will allow us to do more in the field service.

[2] On Thursday at the international convention, these points were forcefully brought to our attention. Do you recall the theme for that day? "A Unique Privilege—Faithfully Working with God." And it was on that day that we were all encouraged to take a look at ourselves to see what we are doing as far as the preaching work is concerned.

[3] Starting off the day, in the talk "Pioneering in the Steps of the Master," we were encouraged to take up the pioneer service if we could adjust our circumstances to do so. Jesus set a fine example for us. He was motivated by love; he was self-sacrificing; he spent much time in the preaching activity. Have you given serious thought to the invitation to take up the pioneer service? If your circumstances permit, by all means enjoy the many blessings and pleasures that come with the pioneer service.—Mal. 3:10.

[4] It may be that your circumstances will not permit you to pioneer right now. But on Thursday afternoon we were encouraged to consider Paul's words at Romans 10:10-17, which highlight our obligation to exercise faith and to make public declaration. To what extent? Do you recall the talk "Working Hard and Exerting Ourselves"? Working hard is not for a lazy person. Jehovah God and Jesus Christ are hard workers. Have you been working hard and exerting yourself? If so, you have seen Jehovah's reward for your hard work since the convention. —1 Tim. 4:10.

[5] One of the highlights of the afternoon came with the talk "The Whole World Is Jehovah's Field." It pointed out that Jehovah is deeply interested in people and wants them to get life. (Ezek. 33:11) We too can share Jehovah's view of other people. One way we can do this is by sharing in the preaching activity each month. Have you been doing so since the convention?

[6] To climax the day's program, the "Declaration of Our Faith" was read. The main points of our Christian faith were concisely expressed. Were you one of those who said "Yes" to indicate that these were expressions of your faith? If so, then you no doubt have been sharing these faith-strengthening truths with others as often as you can. How active is your faith?

[7] Did you get the sense of it? Are you following the suggestions received at the convention? If so, you appreciate the unique privilege of working together with Jehovah in his work. (1 Cor. 3:9) By our prayers, our speech and our activity in God's service we can show that we DID get the sense of it!

Branch Letter *(Cont'd)*

be glad to pass this on to you. As you keep busy and happy in Jehovah's service, we pray that his blessing will go with you.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Your Service Meetings *(Cont'd)*

offer. (4) How they started the study and in what publication. (5) How they would present the new publication *My Book of Bible Stories.*

Suggested Topic for Conversation during December will be: "How to Make Your Way Successful." (Josh. 1:8) Demonstrate it with presentation of *New World Translation* and pocket-size book. Have another publisher demonstrate brief presentation of *My Book of Bible Stories.*

5 min: Song 100 and prayer.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	665	109.1	35.1	3.6	94.9
Pios.	13,095	73.5	28.8	3.0	67.0
Aux. Pios.	14,084	60.8	17.4	1.2	54.2
Pubs.	490,155	8.5	3.5	.4	10.1
TOTAL	517,999				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 989

Help from Jehovah at the Right Time

[1] In country after country, reports are being received about the increased activity of the demons. What can we do to protect ourselves against the influence of the demons? How happy we all were at the international convention this summer when we received the new booklet *Unseen Spirits—Do They Help Us? Or Do They Harm Us?* This booklet is an aid from Jehovah at the right time!

[2] We are glad to inform you that we will study this booklet at our congregation book studies during the month of December.

[3] You may be wondering, though, why is it that we will be studying this booklet in the United States since it has been prepared primarily for the African field? The answer is that we need to be alert to demonic influence that is prevalent here, too. Yes, there are many reports appearing in newspapers and magazines telling of spiritism in this country. At no time should we feel complacent about the counsel at 1 Peter 5:8, 9 and James 4:7.

Announcements

- Literature offer for November: Offer the tract and endeavor to start a Bible study. Use and offer *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* or *Good News—to Make You Happy*, either one for 35c. December: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and any pocket-size book for $1.85, or offer *My Book of Bible Stories* alone for $2.00. January: *Watchtower* subscription for one year, together with any 384- or 416-page book free to new subscribers, for $2.00. If such larger books are not available, use *God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphing for Man's Good.*

- Thanksgiving Day witnessing: It is suggested that each congregation arrange a meeting for field service appropriate to the local territory.

- Meetings for field service: At each meeting for field service in November, please remind the group that our objective this month is not merely to distribute tracts, but also to start home Bible studies if at all possible.

- Please note the following rates for the book *My Book of Bible Stories* (*my*). Pioneer: $ .85; Congregation: $1.90; Public: $2.00.

- New Publications Available:
  Life Does Have a Purpose —French
  Our Incoming World Government—God's Kingdom —Japanese
  The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life —Punjabi

- The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* may be placed with those with whom home Bible studies are conducted. The brochure features information that will aid such persons to become better acquainted with the organization and the work that we are doing. Copies may also be provided to other interested persons and groups who request such information. Congregations may order a small supply of this publication for such purposes.

- During the month of January there will be a series of four special public talks in the congregations based on the recently released book *Making Your Family Life Happy.* Outlines for these talks will be sent to congregations in the near future and the elders can make assignments of such talks to those who will be asked to give them. If your congregation is scheduled to have a circuit overseer's visit or a circuit assembly during January, then these special talks may run over into the month of February.

- It will not be possible to hold an international convention in Montevideo, Uruguay. However, those taking the South American tour may visit the country and arrangements will be made for an English session. Assistance will be given with any sight-seeing tours.

- The dates for the Kumasi, Ghana international convention have been changed from December 20-24 to December 27-31, 1978. The dates for the Accra, Ghana convention, namely, December 20-24, 1978, remain unchanged.

- The international convention scheduled for January 3-7, 1979, in Lesotho (Africa) has been canceled.

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Relief from Pressure—Is It Possible?

These are the scriptures presented in the tract. Feel free to use the verses that are appropriate to your conversation.

Crime removed—Prov. 2:22.
Sickness ended—Rev. 21:4.
Dead raised—John 5:28, 29.
Abundance for all—Ps. 72:16.

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

Do You Help Young Ones to Have a Part?

¹ We appreciate that there are many young persons associated with us. Some of these may be your children. Do you study with them? Are you helping to mold their hearts so that they love Jehovah and find delight in sharing in his service? Do you share with your children in the field service? We encourage you to do so in the spirit of what is written in Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

² When you are sharing in the preaching work with your children or if other young ones are accompanying you, do you see that they have a part? Often young ones just tag along, have little or nothing to say and get restless. What can you do to see that they have a part? They, too, want to serve Jehovah and so need to have a share in the public preaching work.

³ Often very young ones can have a part not only by handing householders the handbill, but also by telling them where the Kingdom Hall is and when the meetings are held and then letting them know that they are welcome to come. Could the young ones who work with you in the field do this?

⁴ Many include the young ones by having them read a scripture during the presentation. One brother tells the householder: "I am training John in this work of Bible education and, if I may, I would like to ask him to read the verse at . . . John, would you read it for us please?" As the young publisher progresses, the older brother asks him a question or two about the verse he has read in order to isolate the main point(s). Then he turns back to the householder and continues the conversation. In this way the brother involves young ones in the conversations at the doors. As you can appreciate, it makes the work much more enjoyable for them as they are having a part. Householders are often prompted to comment on how well such young ones express themselves.

⁵ Often young brothers and sisters who go in the field service have prepared and practiced an effective presentation but have difficulty in getting the conversation started. Perhaps you could help in this. One brother handles the introduction by greeting the householder and saying: "We have something encouraging to share with you from the Bible, but Bill and I are taking turns and this is his turn to explain what we are doing. If you have just a minute, I believe you will enjoy this. Bill . . . " Another brother says: "Hello. My name is Mr. . . . and I am training this young man in Christian service. He would like to explain why we have called." And, of course, if the householder is too busy to talk you could always say: "Since it is not convenient to talk right now, Bill has something he would like to give you before we leave." This will often allow for a brief explanation of the handbill, a tract or other small publication.

⁶ One householder in Louisiana said: "I truly admire you people for training and involving your young ones the way you do. I enjoy their visits to my home." Are you training your children in the field service? And when you work in the field service with your children or others, do you see that they have a part? We encourage you to do so. They, too, must be 'making a public declaration of their faith for salvation.' (Rom. 10:10) And how fine it would be if, as they grow older, they could say as the psalmist did, "O God, you have taught me from my youth on, and until now I keep telling about your wonderful works."—Ps. 71:17.

Have You Tried It? *(Cont'd)*

rarely get the chance to speak to us at the doors. One brother said that he had the best success approaching people who were resting and waiting on benches in public places. Generally, we had the undivided attention of those with whom we spoke, since there were no babies in the bathtub or phones ringing or food on the stove. Once we were over our initial nervousness we all had a most enjoyable time. We have also had some good results in calling back on people we met."

⁶ All of us know that a person does not have to be behind a closed door before we show interest in him. But how often do you approach people who are away from home? Have you ever tried it? It will be your love for people and your desire to share the truth with them that will move you to do so.

⁷ Would you like to try it? A review of the suggestions given in the article "How Many Can You Reach?" in the December 1977 issue of *Our Kingdom Service* will help you.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

◆ It is interesting to learn that more than one third of those baptized at the international conventions so far this summer have been in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Japan.

Relief from Pressure *(Cont'd)*

further literature placements more easily than when we are working with the regular offer." Others found that use of the tracts opened the way to start new Bible studies, and keep in mind that this month, that is our objective. Another said: "This approach has made it possible to have conversations with persons that we normally do not get a chance to talk with. It has made service more interesting. And those we talk to seem to warm up to us a lot more because we are showing more interest in them as individuals."

⁷ Look for opportunities to demonstrate our method of studying the Bible. You may choose to use the *Truth* book starting in chapter 12 because it shows how the Kingdom rule will provide relief from the problems we face, such as crime, food shortages, pollution, corruption in government, as well as sickness and death. (Any other chapter in the book may be used, if you wish.) Demonstrate the study using the Bible itself or any publication that you wish. If you find interest and feel that you need the assistance of another publisher in caring for it or in starting a study, do not hesitate to ask for his assistance.

⁸ During November, is it possible that you could have a fuller share in the work than you normally do? Share in the work as a family whenever possible, and as you do so, keep in mind that you want to start studies with other families. We encourage you also to include new ones in your plans for service as often as possible. Take the initiative in inviting them to work along with you. If they would like to make just a brief offer of the tract, encourage them to do so. If you could help someone else to have a share in the service this month, it would be a wonderful thing. And while we are busy in Jehovah's work, remember that it is his will that we be 'happy in doing it.'—Jas. 1:25.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *Word of God* book:

November 5:	Pages 171 to 179
November 12:	Pages 180 to 189
November 19:	Review of chapters 1 to 7
November 26:	Review of chapters 8 to 14

OUR
KINGDOM
SERVICE

DECEMBER 1978
Vol. 21, No. 12
FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

The Service Office here in Brooklyn was happy to see how many of you responded to the invitation extended on the second day of the "Victorious Faith" International Convention to join the ranks of regular pioneers. Pioneer service was encouraged in the talk "Pioneering in the Steps of the Master." What was the result? In August we received 741 new applications. This is the highest number received in any one month in four years. It was encouraging to note that many of these came from married couples. We hope that many more will be able to increase their service by regular pioneering.

We have also been very busy scheduling pioneers to attend the Pioneer Service School. Twenty-nine classes were held this fall, from September through November. Twenty-six were in English and three in Spanish. With few exceptions, all the traveling overseers' wives and special pioneers have now attended in the United States.

One of the instructors made this comment: "Several students mentioned having reached a point of discouragement in their assignments, and how they felt a need for some definite encouragement and meaningful assistance." He then quoted a student's comment: "The Pioneer School is like an answer to a cry for help." It was also reported that a 92-year-old pioneer sister, serving where the need is greater, was happy she was able to attend, because it taught her to be a better teacher.

We are confident that all of us will receive benefits, too, from the pioneers who have been through the school.

Your brothers,
BROOKLYN BRANCH OFFICE

Try to Be Like Him

1 Jehovah loves people. He has shown this in spiritual as well as physical ways. Although we have many things today for our physical enjoyment, we do not want to overlook the fact that Jehovah provided a message of hope and good news as far back as when Adam was in the Garden of Eden. Should it not be the desire of all appreciative creatures to imitate God's love for people?

HOW GOD SHOWS LOVE

2 The evidence of God's love for people is all around us and can be seen in the physical creation itself. With what remarkable care it has been made for the health, pleasure and welfare of man! The greatest manifestation of God's love for mankind was the gift of his faithful Son, Jesus. (John 3:16) However, where would we be if He had not provided the Bible and a means to get its message to us? The Bible provides answers to our questions on life and gives us hope for the future. We have all this and more because God loves people.

WE CAN IMITATE HIM

3 Can the quality of love be imitated by us lowly, imperfect creatures? Yes it can. Paul says: "Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children, and go on walking in love."—Eph. 5:1, 2.

4 Do you work hard speaking about God, unceasingly showing your heartfelt love for people, never allowing yourself to become inactive or even irregular in service? Many persons may yet be found through the preaching of the good news, and taught Jehovah's way to salvation. Sometimes this means giving a little extra of our time and energy, but the rewards are great.

5 The apostle Paul willingly gave of himself in declaring the good news to others though it meant much suffering and self-sacrifice. He said: "I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house. But I thoroughly bore witness. . . . I do not make my soul of any account as dear to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received of the Lord Jesus, to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God."—Acts 20:20, 21, 24.

6 Many of our brothers are demonstrating this same zeal and faith today and are receiving many bless-

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

New Publication to Be Featured in December

1 In the final talk at the "Victorious Faith" International Convention this past summer, the speaker announced plans to have a campaign in December when the beautiful new publication *My Book of Bible Stories* would be featured. Now that we have become acquainted with the contents of this new book, what a pleasure it will be to participate in a concerted effort to share this information with others!

2 With eagerness we have anticipated this time when we can give as many persons as possible an opportunity to obtain this attractive publication with its 116 vivid stories that give the reader an idea of what the Bible is all about. As you talk to people in the territory, offer *My Book of Bible Stories* first. Although this book contains much that is of interest to old and young alike, you may find that some older persons will say they do not have children or grandchildren. Then it may be better to offer them the *New World Translation* and a pocket-size book. There may be some individuals who do not have a Bible. They may prefer to obtain the Bible and a copy of *My Book of Bible Stories.* So adapt yourself to the various situations that may be encountered.

COMMENTS ON "MY BOOK OF BIBLE STORIES"

3 At the time this new book was released, how our hearts were thrilled when we heard the speaker at the international convention say: "Our loving heavenly Father and his Son know the responsibility you parents in the congregation have. They want to help you. Through the faithful and discreet slave this new publication, especially for children, is released: It is entitled 'My Book of Bible Stories.'" Since then the Society has received many expressions of appreciation for this publication. Hearing some of these comments should stimulate our enthusiasm as we use this new book in the field service during December.

4 One elder stated: "How thrilling it is that the Society can now produce a book that is so visually appealing for our young ones! This splendid publication, with magnificent color pictures on almost every page, adds a new depth to our

(*Continued on page 2, col. 3*)

YOUR SERVICE MEETINGS

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 3

7 min: Song 51. Branch Letter and any local announcements.

18 min: "New Publication to Be Featured in December." Have an elder who is good with young children cover this article with audience, emphasizing December campaign and using some of the comments made by brothers around the country. He should have several young children in the congregation on platform with their books and let them give heartfelt expressions about what they appreciated in the book. He can draw them out with appropriate questions. He should interview various ones in advance so they will know just what to expect.

20 min: "Showing Appreciation for the Congregation Book Study." Lively discussion between a study conductor, a publisher in whose home a study is being held and one who participates in the study regularly. Discuss the benefits of the book study and what each can do to contribute something of value to the study.

15 min: Discuss talking points from our current Topic for Conversation. When reading Joshua 1:8, to what points in the scripture do you draw the householder's attention? Depending on whether *My Book of Bible Stories* or the *New World Translation* is being featured, what would be a good transition from Joshua 1:8 to the offer? If *My Book of Bible Stories* is featured, you may wish to turn the householder's attention to stories 84, 85 and 86, especially at this time of year. Demonstrate how this may be done with different householders. Song 20 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 10

7 min: Song 23. Local announcements.

15 min: Question-and-answer discussion of article "Try to Be Like Him." Comment on all scriptures and make appropriate application.

18 min: Talk on *Watchtower* article "Be of Good Cheer" (March 1, 1978, pp. 3, 4). Apply principles to welcoming new ones and others at congregation. Show how a cheerful spirit can help the brothers and those visiting the congregation. Have demonstration of brother welcoming and conversing cheerfully with one visiting the congregation.

15 min: Where Does the Bible Say It? (Part 1) Lively discussion of *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* brochure. Give a brief talk (3 to 4 min.) on "What Do They Believe?" on page 12 and first two paragraphs on page 14, using the scriptures cited as an outline. In considering the chart on page 13 (cover only first half of chart), ask audience questions on as many of the subjects as is practical in the allotted time. Place emphasis on *Where* does the Bible say it? and *How* does the scripture used prove it? Every scripture on each topic need not be considered.

5 min: Song 95 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 17

7 min: Song 73. Announcements

18 min: "Be Aglow with the Spirit." Scriptural discussion based on Romans 12:11. Chairman to have audience read scriptures and make application to field activity.

1. Romans 12:11: What is relationship between having Jehovah's spirit and not 'loitering at your business?'

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:19: How might one "put out the fire of the spirit"? What can we do to keep alive the "fire of the spirit"?

3. Isaiah 9:6, 7: For what is Jehovah zealous? How can we show we are zealous for the same thing?

4. 1 Kings 18:40: Is our assignment as difficult as was Elijah's?

5. Revelation 3:16: What could happen if one lost his zeal for the truth?

Conclude by showing how zealous activity in Jehovah's service not only gives one greater joy but also serves as a protection.

15 min: Discussion of "Presenting the Good News—As a Youth." Have a brother discuss points in the article with several youths. Have them demonstrate the use of the introductions in paragraphs 3 and 5.

15 min: Discuss with audience the article "Youths, How Do You View Elders?" To be handled by elder to whom teen-agers freely go. He should talk with a number of these beforehand about this article. He should ask them to be ready to comment freely during this discussion. He can cover questions such as: How do you think the elders can help you? What help can they give you in field service? What adjustments do you think some youths need to make in their viewpoint?

5 min: Song 106 and prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 24

8 min: Song 37. Local announcements.

15 min: "Human Kindness Essential for Happiness." Talk from February 15, 1978, *Watchtower*. Emphasize need to show kindness to all persons. Have audience relate local experiences of how kindnesses shown to them assisted them to come to a knowledge of the truth.

17 min: Youths, Be Examples in Faith. (1 Tim. 4:12) This part should provide a review of some highlights from Friday's "Victorious Faith" International Convention program. An elder along with a group of young people can cover some of the points that especially impressed them. Comments should be realistic, though it would be good to review them beforehand. In addition to the young people's own expressions, the following are some highlights that may be covered:

(1) God must be kept in life's activities if their life is to be a happy one. (Eccl. 12:1) (2) Important for young people to determine if their future is built around Kingdom or worldly interests. (3) Be determined to avoid misconduct that can ruin future life. (4) Wholesome goals such as privileges in Kingdom service can bring happiness now as well as in the future. Review some points from drama "Youths—What Is Your Goal in Life?"

Younger persons may cover some of the following points: (1) What can be learned at a very young age from their parents? (2 Tim. 3:15, 16) (2) How they have learned to sit quietly at meetings, paying attention to speakers. (Neh. 8:1-3) (3) How they might accompany their mother as she takes part in the school. (4) How they are being trained to witness effectively at school.

Conclude by commending parents for effort they are putting forth to encourage all youths to be examples in faith.

20 min: Where Does the Bible Say It? (Part 2) Enthusiastic discussion of *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century* brochure. Cover second half of chart on page 13, "What Jehovah's Witnesses Believe." Ask audience questions on as many of the subjects as is practical in the allotted time. As in previous discussion of chart, place emphasis on *Where* does the Bible say it? and, *How* does the scripture used prove it? Not every scripture on each topic need be considered. Song 31 and prayer.

Try to Be Like Him (*Cont'd*)

ings from the hand of Jehovah. In these thrilling days before the climax of this system of things, what a joy it is to receive Jehovah's abundant love! We should make every effort to try to be like him by giving of ourselves in a full measure to others.

New Publication Featured (*Cont'd*)

teaching. How happy we are that our children, who now learn visually in school by television, can benefit from this splendid visual aid."

5 Some children read the whole book before the convention was over. One youth said: "It is good; it tells about all the Bible stories." Another youngster commented: "I like it because it breaks things down so I can understand them better. In the Bible you find words you cannot understand. This book puts it in language easy for us to understand." A parent exclaimed: "The wonderful book *My Book of Bible Stories*, especially designed for children, has been enjoyed equally as much by myself as by my seven-year-old son!"

6 Another sister stated: "I am an old lady, but I want to thank you for *My Book of Bible Stories*. I appreciate the big print and lovely pictures. This makes it easy to read at night when I am very tired." This older sister added: "My son who is a printer has expressed his professional admiration for the quality of workmanship it contains."

7 Another of the friends observed: "This book will appeal to the general public because its format will make it a lovely gift." We do have, as one person observes, "an outstanding spiritual gift from Jehovah." We pray that Jehovah will bless your efforts in using *My Book of Bible Stories* to help others to come to appreciate his goodness and purpose.—Ps. 40: 9, 10.

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Youths, How Do You View Elders?

1 There is much good that can be accomplished by Christian youths today. People are immediately impressed when they see youths displaying respect for others, stability in life and good moral character. Even young children bring praise to Jehovah by their fine conduct and sincere expressions about him. (Matt. 21:15, 16) It is indeed praiseworthy when young people overcome the "desires incidental to youth" and follow a course that is an influence for good upon others.—2 Tim. 2:22.

2 The elders in the congregation have the responsibility to help all, including the youth, to grow in knowledge, faith and stability. (Eph. 4:11-15) Although the primary responsibility for helping youths belongs to the parents, elders, too, can do much to supplement the efforts of the parents. Especially is this helpful in those families where there is no father in the truth. (Jas. 1:27) For elders to accomplish this in the fullest measure, it is vital that there be a good working relationship between them and the youth. This good relationship depends much on how youths view the elders.

3 How do you view the elders in your congregation? Do you view them as experienced Christians whom you can freely approach with any question or problem? Do you view them as men who can assist you in a practical and reasonable manner? If not, why not? Some youths have implied that they feel older ones, including elders, do not understand them. But have you really sincerely tried to communicate with them? Remember, older ones were at one time teen-agers. They may appear to be narrow in their viewpoint at times, but could this be due to their having already learned the hard way that the course they are counseling against can bring harm? (Heb. 12:7-11; 13:7, 17) Listening intently to wise counsel from elders is a course of wisdom.—Prov. 4:4, 8, 9.

4 On the other hand, elders can analyze their way of dealing with the youths in the congregation. Are they proving themselves to be approachable, "mild-tempered" and "lowly"? (Matt. 11:28-30) It is understandable that youths and others tend to be hesitant to approach them if they are otherwise. There could develop an attitude in imperfect men to overlook youths. Even the apostles fell prey to this tendency.—Mark 10:13-16.

5 It is urgent that youths and

(*Continued on page 4, col. 3*)

Showing Appreciation for the Congregation Book Study

1 Meetings in private homes could well be the oldest and most widely attended of Christian gatherings. In apostolic times groups of Christians met in private homes to discuss God's Word. (Philem. 2) And today, besides the tens of thousands of congregation book study groups, we find in many of the 46 lands where the work is banned that small groups of our brothers are meeting in private homes for Bible study. This, in fact, is the only kind of meeting possible in many of these lands.

2 The congregation book study is usually in a private home. How do you feel about this meeting? Are you taking full advantage of this provision, or do you regard it as less important than the other meetings? Lower attendance at the book study in many congregations would indicate that some feel this way. What about you?

3 Consider some of the following benefits of the book study arrangement of which all of us can take advantage: (1) The groups are smaller, with better opportunities for close fellowship. (2) It is easier for all to comment freely since the material to be covered is not too lengthy and the group is small; also, we can get answers to questions on points not entirely clear from our personal study. (3) It provides a convenient center for organizing field service where this can be arranged during the week. (4) Conductors can get to know you better and are in a good position to assist with personal problems, give training in field service and help you with Scriptural questions.

4 With this brief review of the benefits of the book study arrangement, how can we all best show our appreciation for it and in some way contribute toward making it a success?

5 Let's start with you, the publisher. How can you contribute something to the book study where you are assigned? Simply being there on time, or better still, a little early so that you can upbuild the group is a loving thing to do. By advance study of the material you are prepared to incite others to love and fine works by your comments. Showing respect for the home and furniture where the study is held is also very important. What about your dress and conduct as well as that of your children? Do these reflect the fact that you are attending a meeting arranged by Jehovah's visible organization and where his spirit is present?

6 The family in whose home the study is held would want to make certain that to the best of their ability conditions favorable for study and concentration prevail. Are ventilation, temperature and lighting conducive to relaxed, comfortable study? (Acts 20:8) Are you prepared and in your seat when the study is about to start instead of occupied in another part of the house? Do you make those attending feel welcome?

7 The book study conductor holds the key position for making the entire arrangement a success and of greatest benefit to all attending. As a conductor, have you thoroughly prepared the material? Have you read the Scripture citations? Do you ask meaningful auxiliary questions? Do you endeavor to have all participate, including the children, and yet not embarrass anyone by putting him on the spot? The conductor should be interested in the spiritual development of all in the group and that they become skillful in "handling the word of the truth aright." (2 Tim. 2:15) He should endeavor to be well acquainted with all who are assigned to the group and make it a practice to visit them in their homes. Where it is not possible for the book study location also to be a meeting place for field service, the conductor will be sure that arrangements are made for his group to meet for service each week at a time and place convenient for them. The publishers also benefit the most when the conductor makes positive appointments to work in service with each one on a regular basis.

8 Are some groups getting too large for the location? Or is the group so small that it is discouraging to the few who attend regularly? Congregation elders will want to be alert, in such cases, to make whatever adjustments are needed. In some areas it has proven beneficial to rotate the locations for the study if there are additional homes available. In this way a burden is not placed on someone if he has had the study in his home for many years and would be happy for someone else to be the host for a time. It is a real privilege to have one of the book studies in our home and wherever circumstances allow, we should be eager for the opportunity. (Prov. 3:9) At such locations where the householder is pleased to have the study in his home and the location is quite suitable, a change would not be necessary if no other factors dictate that the study be moved.

(*Continued on page 4, col. 1*)

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

As a Youth

[1] A number of Christian youths have proved themselves quite effective in presenting the good news. Many times older ones will give ear to the Kingdom message presented by a youth because of the deep, positive impression of seeing a young person involved in Christian activity. Other youths tend to listen more readily to our youths. Many of these young people are seeking answers concerning the purpose of life and other religiously related matters.

[2] What can you young people do to take advantage of your favorable situation to give a meaningful Kingdom witness? Many have found it helpful to become adept in using the Bible in the field. This, of course, takes more effort than just presenting the magazines or other literature without a conversation on a Bible text or two. However, it is found that a deeper impression is made on the householders when they note your skill in using the Bible. Also, this use has an enriching effect on you personally.—Heb. 5:14.

[3] When talking to older persons it helps to have a respectful approach, showing you recognize the benefits of their age. (Lev. 19:32) For example, when introducing the current Topic for Conversation to an older person you could say: "I am a student of the Bible. I am concerned about how things are going in the world. I know that you have seen much more change in the world than I have. What do you think the greatest need is if people are going to have success and contentment in life?" Then you might ask them if they feel that following the direction given at Joshua 1:8 would help the situation.

[4] When you meet another youth in your field service, make a real effort to use the Bible. As indicated at our international convention this summer, many youths are showing a sincere interest in religious matters. A young scientist who conducted a revealing survey interviewed 800 schoolchildren and found that 60 percent of the children stated something to this effect: "I often concern myself with the question of God's existence." We can take advantage of this interest on the part of young people.

[5] For example, when we meet a youth in our house-to-house work, could we get him involved in a discussion by simply saying: "I would appreciate getting your viewpoint on a matter. Do you think it is more logical to believe that we were created by an intelligent super-being or that we came into existence by chance? [Allow time for an answer.] The Bible shows that God created us and left directions as to how we could make a success in life." Then discuss the point in Joshua 1:8. You could use *My Book of Bible Stories* or the *New World Translation* and *Youth* book. Many teen-agers have found benefit in the simple summary of the Bible in *My Book of Bible Stories*. Some have asked for the book simply because a publisher showed a series of pictures with brief comments on them.

[6] In view of the advantages youths have in giving an effective witness to both old and young alike, they should be encouraged to have a full share in Kingdom service. There are benefits for them and benefits for those to whom they present the good news.

Congregation Book Study (*Cont'd*)

Some reports have been received that studies are being held in places that are less than adequate for the locality. Does the condition of the room set aside for the study reflect appreciation for having the study in one's home? Elders will want to remember that the book study is an extension of the local arrangement for congregation meetings and fills an important role in our study and worship.

[9] The congregation book study fills a vital need in our spiritual progress. If some of us have failed to see the reasons for the emphasis being placed on this important arrangement, it would be good to take a fresh look at our view toward the book study to which we are assigned. Do we see why we all should have deep appreciation for this loving provision from Jehovah?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

How to make your way successful.—Josh. 1:8.

Meditate and act upon what is written in the Bible.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.	Av. Mags.
Sp'l Pios.	689	131.3	40.2	3.8	110.7
Pios.	14,088	83.9	30.9	3.1	76.8
Aux. Pios.	17,919	59.8	17.8	1.3	54.0
Pubs.	479,820	8.4	3.5	.4	10.1
TOTAL	512,516				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,122

Announcements

- During January, most congregations will have their public talks from the book *Making Your Family Life Happy*. Everyone will want to bring his copy of the book to the meeting.
- Literature offer for December: *My Book of Bible Stories* for $2.00, or *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* and any pocket-size book for $1.85. If *My Book of Bible Stories* and *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* are desired by householder, this combination is available for $3.50. January: *Watchtower* subscription for one year for $2.00 and a 384- or 416-page book or *"Eternal Purpose"* book free. (Publishers remit $1.90.) If your congregation does not have enough of the large bound books, you may order *"The Nations Shall Know that I Am Jehovah"—How?* and *Man's Salvation out of World Distress at Hand!*, which the Society has in stock.
- Congregations will want to arrange special field service activity for the two worldly holidays that come at this time of year. Care should be taken not to call at the homes earlier than when most people are up.
- The Society now has a limited supply of the following publications in Grade-two English Braille: *Unseen Spirits—Do They Help Us Or Do They Harm Us?* and *Making Your Family Life Happy*. You may receive these publications free of charge by writing to the Braille Desk. These sets are not to be stocked by the congregation.
- In December the presiding overseer will audit books for September, October and November or arrange for another capable brother to do so.
- Correction: The book *Making Your Family Life Happy* is not available in the Finnish language as announced in the September 1978 *Our Kingdom Service*.
- After January 1, 1979, congregations may submit orders for the 1978 bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* These will be available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Order Dutch and German after February 15. Volumes are $2.50 each. There are no pioneer rates. PAYMENT SHOULD NOT ACCOMPANY ORDERS. These will be charged to the congregation's literature account.

How Do You View Elders? (*Cont'd*)

elders maintain the right view of each other. Our youths are a force for good in the congregation. As one parent who is now a regular pioneer stated: "I can say, as a result of the good conduct of my children, and its influence on the family, we have definitely been doing all things 'for the sake of the good news.'" It is vital that youths maintain a balanced view of elders so elders can assist them to be more productive in their lives as Christians.

Schedule for congregation book studies in *Unseen Spirits* booklet:

December 3: Pages 3 to 11*
December 10: Pages 11 to 22*
December 17: Pages 22 to 35*
December 24: Pages 35 to 47*
December 31: Pages 47 to 62

* To subheading.